Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Akayev, Uzbek, Kazakh Leaders Meet 29-30 Apr

LD0105102394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 1 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Yarushin]

[Text] Moscow, 1 May—This morning, the apparatus of Presidents Askar Akayev and Islam Karimov confirmed to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the heads of state of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan held a meeting on 29-30 April in the town of Karakol on the shore of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. The apparatus categorically refused to give details of the meeting, saying it was of a confidential nature. However, it was learned in a telephone conversation with a representative of Karimov's administration that a communique was signed on the results of the meeting.

ITAR-TASS has learned that the meeting in Karakol was devoted to the problems of creating an effective mechanism for a single economic zone in the region. Observers are expressing the supposition that they were discussing the possibility of a regional transformation of the idea of creating a Eurasian union. We remind you that in Moscow on 29 March Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed the creation of a new association of CIS member states—a Eurasian union. At that time he said that if the idea did not find sufficient support in the CIS, a Eurasian union could be joined by individual states.

Nazarbayev's idea of a Eurasian union of states proposes the formation of supranational bodies to coordinate economic, defense, and foreign policy; the formation of a single parliament and councils of defense and foreign ministers; and the introduction of common citizenship.

The idea of creating a Eurasian union met with a restrained reaction from leaders of CIS member countries. They described it as interesting, but premature. Therefore, one can suppose with some confidence that on the shore of Lake Issyk-Kul the presidents of Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan jointly launched an "integration offensive" within the framework of bringing regional interests closer together.

Leaders Meet in Kyrgyzstan

LD3004165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Askar Akayev and Islam Karimov, had a meeting in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan.

During the meeting, held at the proposal of Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev on Friday [29 April] and Saturday, the three leaders spoke about the social and political situation in their countries, discussed the current state of affairs in Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in general, and dealt with some international problems.

The presidents said there was a need for practical mechanisms to carry out the trilateral treaty to create a single economic area, an accord which, they said, is in line with the CIS economic union treaty and is an instrument for the implementation of the latter document within Central Asia.

Nazarbayev, Akayev and Karimov also brought up some regional political problems, mainly that of migration and consequent coexistence between different ethnic groups in Central Asian countries, and discussed the damage done to Kyrgyzstan's economy by recent mudslides.

The presidents issued a joint communique, in which they urged stronger friendship and cooperation between their countries in all fields.

Agree on Closer Economic Ties

LD0205084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0745 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 2 May—The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan devoted their meeting on 29-30 April on the shore of Lake Issyk-Kul to the deepening of economic links in Central Asia and the CIS, says a communique on the results of the summit meeting released today by President Askar Akayev's press service.

The document notes that the meeting was held in a spirit of mutual understanding and trust. The sides exchanged views on the current situation in the region and the Commonwealth, and also on a whole range of international problems.

The presidents of the three countries signed a treaty on the creation of a single economic space, representing a new level of integration for the economies of the Central Asian states, the communique stresses. The sides noted that the time has come to remove all the obstacles standing in the way of economic interaction and to eliminate customs barriers, double taxation, and complications with the passage of payments; and that the treaty is fully in accordance with the provisions of the agreement on the creation of a CIS economic union, and is open for joining by all the states of the Commonwealth.

Further on Summit

LD0205100294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpts] As has already been reported, a summit of the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan took place in Karakol. Such summits have become traditional. [passage omitted] The main result of this meeting is Kyrgyzstan's joining the agreement on a common economic space between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Now this is a tripartite agreement. [passage omitted] The presidents said that this agreement represents a new level of economic integration of the Central Asian states. There will be no obstacles, such as customs barriers, double taxation. Currency exchange points will be opened. Steps taken by the governments to improve goods turnover and goods exchange as well as regulation of labor inflow and outflow between the states will positively influence the economic situation in the region. Further enhancement of economic

cooperation will lead to a better mechanism, which will facilitate constructive interaction and help resolve a number of political problems that are common in the region as well. It concerns efficient, mutually beneficial and peaceful co-habitation of different ethnic groups in Central Asia, which will become a stabilizing factor of the ethnic situation in the region. The participants of the meeting expressed their readiness to continue their search for new forms of interstate cooperation in the interests of the three nations.

Within the framework of the CIS summit decisions to render help to Kyrgyzstan, the presidents discussed concrete measures to be taken in order to eliminate damage inflicted on the Kyrgyz economy by recent mud slides. The presidents expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful talks and their hope for these talks to further stimulate friendship and cooperation in the region. [words indistinct]

CIS News Agency Conference Stresses Cooperation

LD2904050494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Veksler]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—A conference of heads and executive directors of news agencies of CIS member-states, which finished today at the ITAR-TASS building, has spoken out for the need to make efficient use of the unified information space. Attending it were delegations from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine, as well as representatives from the sovereign states' embassies.

In the opinion of ARMENPRESS director Gevorka Oganesyan, "the main result of the meeting is that we have managed to do some constructive work after the collapse of the Soviet Union. I recall a similar conference last year, which was quite amorphous in content and at which those attending had major differences. But now, at the insistence of a majority of the agencies, a decision in principle has been made to make really effective use of the new unified information space. In connection with this, an appropriate memorandum to the chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly was passed."

"Our Republic is developing along democratic lines, freedom of speech and the press is developing, and naturally we need an outlet into the international information space," said Akbar Ryskulov, director of the Kyrgyzkabar agency. "We are ready to cooperate with any professional news agency that propagandizes basic human ideals. Furthermore, the more independent we become, the more we regard information integration as important and topical for us, and the meeting at ITAR-TASS and the documents adopted at it will undoubtedly promote the development of this process."

Boris Petrov, director of ITAR-TASS in St. Petersburg, said he was deeply satisfied with the course and character of the meeting and the content of the decisions adopted, particularly the proposals to create a permanently functioning council of heads of CIS news agencies. In his view, "the general situation regarding the creation and building of structures to coordinate the activity of the CIS has reached a phase that demands the creation of a similar structure in the information field as well."

Armenian Premier Proposes Collective CIS Currency

PM0205153994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Armenian Premier Proposes CIS Countries Institute Collective Currency"]

[Text] Yerevan—Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratian has sent a letter to all the CIS prime ministers.

It states, in particular, that financial transactions between the CIS countries have become considerably more complex as a result of the introduction of national currencies. The Russian ruble is used as a single currency for many trade deals between states; the CIS countries look to Russia for loans to execute their transactions, thereby increasing the Russian budget deficit. The prime minister thinks that the way to ease financial difficulties lies in the broader use of national currencies, and also proposes setting up a collective currency for the CIS countries, in which it is proposed to carry out all transactions in a CIS interstate bank.

Yeltsin Accepts Invitation to Naples G-7 Meeting

LD0205162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1532 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Startsev]

[Text] Rome, 2 May—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has accepted with satisfaction the invitation to attend the G-7 meeting to take place in Naples this July. As became known today from informed sources within the office of the chairman of the Italian Council of Ministers, the Russian president had sent a message to Carlo Azeglio Ciampi in which he noted the head of the Italian Government's great contribution to attaining agreement on Russian participation in examining political issues of international security and in preparing the meeting's final political document. This decision, the message notes, creates good prerequisites for the Naples meeting to become an important new milestone in relations between Russia and the G-7.

As is known, in late April, C.A. Ciampi told B. Yeltsin about a preliminary timetable and the form of Russian participation in the forthcoming summit. The head of government of Italy, the country that currently holds the G-7 presidency, made considerable efforts to ensure that the Naples summit be held as "seven plus one." It is noteworthy that Russia will not only take part in discussing political problems, but will also be directly involved in preparations for the Naples conference. B. Yeltsin's letter says that he has instructed the Russian Federation Government to join most actively in preparations for the summit.

French Radio Interviews Yeltsin

LD0205105994 Paris Europe No. 1 Radio in French 0540 GMT 2 May 94

[Text of 'exclusive' with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by correspondent Franz-Olivier Giesbert for LE FIGARO and Europe No. 1; Yeltsin speaks in Russian with simultaneous translation into French; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Giesbert] Good morning, Mr. Yeltsin. With the Bosnian business Russia is back in force on the international scene, and you are publishing with Albin Michel [publishing house] a very interesting book, full of revelations, entitled "On the Razor's Edge," where you write about the recent failed coups. So that is at least two reasons—there are plenty of others—for inviting you to speak to us this morning.

Moscow is a living city again: Everywhere you can see new shops, but the economic situation is still very worrying. What do you want to say to the West this morning in order to get real help?

[Yeltsin] I don't want to persuade people any more. Look at the results. I have spent more than two years trying to persuade them—nearly three. Unfortunately, I haven't gotten much from this. I am not going to try to persuade anyone anymore. Let the world and the Western countries, and their leaders understand for themselves that the situation in Russia influences the situation in the world as a whole, and whether it deteriorates. In general, we can carry out all our reforms by our own efforts.

[Giesbert] Don't you feel basically, that the West has cast you off?

[Yeltsin] It isn't so easy to cast me off. I will fight. Perhaps I will cast off my opponent, my rival. As for fate, the fate of Russia is set, and Russia will not turn away from the path it is following. Will there be aid from the West or won't there be? What we are talking about is this: We have to eliminate two-thirds of the strategic nuclear missiles as soon as possible, and to do this we need huge sums of money. Of course we don't have the money. If the West wants us not to have these missiles, then support us; if you refuse, if you want to live continuously in fear of these missiles, keep your money!

[Giesbert] So you are saying that if we don't help you, there is likely to be chaos?

[Yeltsin] No. You have understood it the wrong way round. Even if the West does not help us, Russia will follow its path of renewal and democracy based on a market economy, and respect for human rights at an international level.

[Giesbert] In your opinion, is Helmut Kohl the statesman who has best understood Russia today?

[Yeltsin] I have great respect for Bill Clinton, but he simply has not yet had enough time to study Russia in a serious way.

Helmut Kohl, simply by virtue of seniority as chancellor, has had a real chance to get a good knowledge of the former Soviet Union and Russia. There is no such international scale to say one is better than another.

[Geisbert] When we read your book, "On the Razor's Edge," it is clear that democracy is still fragile in Russia. Do you think there is still a danger of a coup? You have spoken optimistically, but anyone reading your book has the impression that things came very close to disaster.

[Yeltsin] Well, of course, these two coups were an attempt to divert us from the path of democracy. But now I cannot see any serious forces which might hinder us on our path.

Of course, as in any other country, there are communists, reds, and so on, who have their own program, who hinder us in a way. For example, we have signed a document on public accord, and of the 248 organizations—parties, existing structures, movements, and social organizations—which took part, 245 signed [the document]. The communists didn't sign.

I am just sorry, and sorry for them, that they are the ones losing out, because they keep saying: We are for the people. But they did not sign the document on accord in Russia, to ensure that there should not be a civil war.

[Giesbert] You have not talked about Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the abominable Zhirinovskiy. Isn't he a threat?

[Yeltsin] No.

[Giesbert] Are the Russians too intelligent to return to demagogy?

[Yeltsin] Our people suffered more than anyone else from fascism in the war against fascist Germany. We lost 20 million people in it.

[Geibert] A personal question, Mr. Yeltsin. When we read your book, we have the impression of a strong man, decisive and determined, but who is also able to question himself. Why do you disappear from time to time as you do?

[Yeltsin] No, I am in good health. I am not ill. I do not miss work for health reasons, but there are important questions, important problems, documents that have to be worked on. For example, the treaty on public accord. It needed very special preparation. I took leave for 12 days, part of my annual leave, that I certainly have a right to take. I never use all of my annual leave. But in spring I take 12 days or so, and 12 or so days in the fall. Usually I use these vacation times to prepare important initiatives of work on some problem or other. I don't disappear anywhere, and I don't go away.

[Geisbert] What are the main mistakes made by the West in the problem of former Yugoslavia?

[Yeltsin] Of course, if we had united at the very beginning, if we had worked out a common viewpoint and approach as to how to put an end to this situation, we would have settled this situation much faster in a peaceful way. That is the most important thing.

We all, we and the United States, and the United Nations and Europe, we were all too late. Once the fire had been kindled, it was much more difficult to put it out.

[Giesbert] Today, the historic responsibility lies with you, because it depends on you.

[Yeltsin] You mean Yugoslavia?

[Giesbert] Yes. You are the arbiter. Because you are [word indistinct] led, because you are the only ones who can still talk to the Serbs.

[Yeltsin] Well, yes, but there are not only the Serbs there. There are the Muslims and the Croats and other peoples. And then, we have gotten rid of our imperialist ambitions. We could not put pressure on them with our full weight, but with all of us together we could arrive at an agreement.

[Giesbert] Basically, you see the fault as lying with the Serbs today?

[Yeltsin] No, with all of those involved.

[Geisbert] Mr. Yeltsin, let me recall the title of your book, published by Albin Michel: "On the Razor's Edge." What are you going to do now? Play tennis?

[Yeltsin] I play on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

[Giesbert] Are you going to take a freezing cold bath today?

[Yeltsin] Yes, indeed. I do that every day.

[Giesbert] Thank you, Mr. Yeltsin. Have a good bath and a good day.

Kozyrev's Geneva Talks on Bosnia Assessed

PM0205102794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Article by Konstantin Eggert: "Defeat in Bosnia Unites Russia and West"]

[Text] Geneva-Bonn-Moscow—For a long time to come Russian diplomacy will be branded "pro-Serb," although, judging from the results of the Russian foreign minister's talks with his U.S., French, and FRG counterparts, there are fewer grounds for this than before.

The peaks and troughs of the last few months seem to have had a sobering effect on both Russia and the West. The Kremlin has been shamefully humiliated by the Serbs, while Europe and the United States have shown themselves to be confused and ineffectual in their use of military force. The spirit of defeat has closed the gap between Moscow and the Western capitals, compelling them on the one hand to engage in what one might call "mutual face saving" and on the other to try a general onslaught to get the Bosnian problem moving.

Andrey Kozyrev's trip to Geneva and Bonn was undertaken straight after Russia submitted its initiative for the creation of a so-called "contact group" involving representatives of Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations. Its task is to get the Serbs and Muslims to sign an agreement suspending hostilities forthwith and then work toward a Bosnia-wide agreement on the principles for a settlement.

By the minister's own admission, when he went to Switzerland he did not expect his Western partners to agree so quickly to Russia's idea of stepping up the quest for a political solution to the crisis in Bosnia. In this respect the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was of particular importance. Their positions have moved appreciably closer: Moscow is no longer saying that air strikes are categorically inadmissible, and moreover it acknowledges that they are advisable when the civilian population is under threat. Washington in turn agreed on the need to direct attention primarily to diplomatic means of influencing the parties to the conflict.

The meeting with Alain Juppe, head of the French Foreign Ministry, was even more upbeat than the talks with Christopher, which is easily explained: Russia's views were previously extremely close to the Europeans' viewpoint. On leaving the Russian mission in Geneva, where he spoke with Kozyrev, the French minister said: "The contact group will not only tackle Bosnia."

The work of the contact group began with a minor sensation. It was announced that Aleksey Nikiforov, first deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's First European Department, would go to Sarajevo and Pale, the Bosnian Serb capital, instead of Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative. Agency and newspaper reports immediately appeared saying that Churkin had resigned.

Talking to journalists in the aircraft en route for Bonn, Vitaliy Ivanovich joked: "The press was in a hurry to deprive me of a job." Following Kozyrev's talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel Churkin flew off to Oslo to meet with Thorvald Stoltenberg, the UN secretary general's representative. Aleksey Nikiforovich's visit to Bosnia is quite justified: After Churkin's very harsh words about the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs two weeks ago, describing them as people "seized by the madness of war," his meeting with Radovan Karadzic would hardly be productive. Churkin is not opposed to passing on his work in Yugoslavia to someone else, however, according to an informed Russian diplomat, "only the president has the right to relieve him of this post. Yeltsin may do that tomorrow, but he may also do it in a year's time."

If the contact group's work goes successfully, the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, France, Britain, and Germany may meet next week in Geneva or one of the Scandinavian capitals. According to Kozyrev, it is quite possible that an interim agreement would be concluded following the general suspension of hostilities in Bosnia, an agreement recording primarily the territorial disagreements between the communities. After that they would be able to argue for a year, but over a map, not in the trenches. At the end of the interim period the remaining unresolved questions could be handed over to international arbitration.

Kozyrev Emphasizes Peaceful Methods in Bosnia

PM0205122594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 7

[Correspondent Igor Yavlinskiy report under "INFORM" rubric: "Andrey Vladimirovich, Are You Pro-Serb?"]

[Text] Bonn—Andrey Kozyrev and his German colleague Klaus Kinkel know each other well and can get down to business without any preliminaries. That is why Kozyrev managed to pack a lot into the three hours he was on German soil. He and his team traveled by military helicopter to Bonn's "Petersberg" residence for honored guests, he had a conversation with Kinkel, he had a bite to eat, and he appeared before journalists.

The agenda included: putting the final touches to the program for Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to the FRG; an exchange of opinions on the progress of the elections in the Republic of South Africa; discussion of the situation in the Near East; and problems of bilateral relations. But the key question was Bosnia and, in particular, President Yeltsin's proposal to hold an international meeting on settling the conflict with Russia, the United States, the EU [European Union], and NATO participating. In the minister's opinion, it should specifically result in a consolidated approach to this problem from the world community. Russian diplomacy's main thesis is that there must be no reliance purely on a military solution involving force and that it is essential to try to make full use of all peaceful methods to extinguish the conflagration of war in the Balkans. A meeting of foreign ministers of the states and political organizations invited by Boris Nikolayevich to the conversation on Bosnia is due to be held in the near future in order to reach final agreement on disputed points.

The world community's next task is to insist on a cease-fire in Bosnia and to start working out the conditions for and principles of a comprehensive peace settlement. And, as progress is made toward the set aim, the vise of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia must be gradually loosened.

"Do you represent the Serbs' interests?" a German journalist asked.

"No, I represent Russia," Andrey Vladimirovich replied.

Kozyrev Outlines Stances on Mideast Issues

LD0305123494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1106 GMT 3 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 May—The forthcoming signing of the "Gaza-Jericho-First" agreement between the PLO and Israel will open a new, no less complex stage connected with the implementation of the agreements which have been reached, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated today before his departure for Cairo where he is to take part in the ceremony at which that historic document will be signed. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of the Russian minister, questions on the practical transition to a peaceful life, on setting up economic ties, and guaranteeing security are of exceptional importance for the whole region. It is gratifying that Russia also has made its contribution to the achievement of progress along this path. In particular, "it is generally acknowledged" that the recent visits to Moscow by the PLO and Israeli delegations, the meetings which Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin had with Boris Yeltsin "gave a good boost to the work being carried out," A.Kozyrev noted.

He also voiced satisfaction with the constructive cooperation which is under way with the U.S. side. "We are are in daily contact, we are acting in unison, in complete accord," the minister stressed.

A. Kozyrev expressed confidence that the present first step in the Near East peace process should be accompanied by the search for mutually acceptable solutions with regard to all Palestinian territories and by progress in other areas of the talks. The minister believes that it is necessary, first and foremost, to attain progress in the Israel-Syrian area of the talks, as the most difficult one. In his words, Russia has an opportunity to play an active mediatory role.

Touching upon Russia's idea of convening the second Madrid conference on the Near East, A. Kozyrev noted that it aimed to open new "political diplomatic" prospects and that it is still topical, of course. "I think," he continued, "that this idea will receive a wider recognition since a certain stage in the current process is now coming to completion." It is necessary to assess the path which has been traveled and to specifically outline future areas of the talks to capitalize on the achievements of the first Madrid conference.

In the opinion of the Russian minister, the present peace process could become a model for resolving many "chronic conflicts fraught with bloodshed and intolerance." This applies in particular, he noted, to the Karabakh conflict. A.Kozyrev voiced the hope that the warring sides will be able to reach agreement on a cease-fire and to "enter an agreement drawn up with Russian mediation."

The head of the foreign policy department of the Russian Federation noted that the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS states could make a weighty contribution to resolving this problem. "We will also strive to step up cooperation in this direction in the CSCE," he said.

The minister also said that he intended to meet soon with Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kozyrev Leaves for Cairo for Agreement Signing

LD0305080894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow 3 May TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left for Cairo today morning. He will attend the signing of the "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement between the Organisation of Palestine's Liberation (PLO) and Israel, which is to take place in the Egyptian capital on Wednesday [4 May].

Kozyrev will also meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo. Russia and the United States are mediators in the Middle East peace process.

Kozyrev Arrives in Cairo

LD0305132194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 3 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov, ITAR- TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo May 3 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived here today to attend the signing ceremony of the PLO-Israeli agreement on principles of the implementation of the "Gaza-Jericho first" treaty on Wednesday.

The document will be signed by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Russian and U.S. foreign ministers who are co-sponsors of the Mideastern peace process and the Egyptian foreign minister. The latter welcomed Andrey kozyrev at the airport today.

Andrey Kozyrev is also expected to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Moscow Against Using Pressure on Iraq

LD3004162194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian foreign policy-makers are attentively observing the situation in the Persian Gulf. Moscow wants to contribute to a settlement of the conflict there as well as in any other region of the world and seeks stability and friendly relations established in the region. Moscow considers this to be in its direct state interests, a Russian expert on this region's problems told INTERFAX in an interview.

He suggested that the Russian position on elimination of the consequences of the Iraqi-Kuwait conflict proceeded from the priority of international law. "This means that Baghdad must strictly observe and implement all the decisions made by the world community. The UN Security Council in its turn must adequately response to all positive moves by Iraq," he added.

The expert pointed out that three years after the armed conflict Iraq had done much for implementation of the decisions made by the UN Security Council, primarily in the sphere of disarmament.

The expert said this had caused the Russian representative to the UN Security Council to propose at its last session that the "work" with Iraq proceed to the next stage providing for international control over the Iraqi military programs.

"Moscow, Paris, Beijing and several nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council believe that such specific measures would encourage Baghdad for further cooperation with the Special Commission," the expert suggested.

He said Moscow was afraid that a continuing indefinite position on lifting the sanctions and utilization of pressure and threats in dialogue with Iraq might bring results opposite to expectations, such as confrontation with the UN and a closed defense policy.

Moscow TV Reports on Situation in Croatia

OW0305102994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Aleksandr Lutskiy video report from Yugoslavia; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Spring is in full bloom in Croatia. Unfortunately, the smell of blooming trees in once picturesque towns and villages that have found themselves in a combat zone contrasts sharply with the almost apocalyptic horror of devastation. Blood brothers, Serbs and Croats, look at what you have done. Ruins, ruins, and ruins again.

and this is a roadblock of the UN peace keeping force, UNHCR [as heard] for short. It controls a part of the territory between the self proclaimed republic of Serbia and Croatia. Had it not been for the blue helmets, the smoldering fire of war would have blazed here with renewed strength.

A UN command post snuggled near a demolished church in the small town of (Pakrac), formerly a resort. The chief is Canadian. When asked whether it was dangerous here he said that while today the situation was relatively relaxed, a month ago it was very dangerous.

Intense fighting took place at the local cemetery as well. Even the dead have no peace from the living, many of whom found their final resting place here.

While touring the roads of former Yugoslavia, we managed to meet fighters of the Russian battalion, which serves under the UN aegis. There were 1,200 in the beginning, then a third was sent to Bosnia, to the long-suffering town of Sarajevo. These lads serve at the so-called checkpoints.

[Begin recording][Lutskiy] Do shootings occur often?

[Bessmertnykh] There are battles every day.

[Kobzev] Our battalion lost two men this year, and 17 sustained injuries of varying extent. As to the situation, it is difficult to say how an immediate peace can be established here. There can be no talk about establishing immediate peace here. [end recording]

The deputy battalion commander's opinion was also confirmed at the Russian Embassy in Croatia.

[Begin Kerestedzhiyants recording] I want to emphasize that there is no side where you can plant both feet and say: This is just. [Points to a wall map of former Yugoslavia, with color coded division of forces displayed] The Serbs have no right to clean out Gorazde, which is home for 60,000 Muslims. These people have nowhere to go. The Muslims here also have no right to attack the Serbs because they are under UN protection and have been declared to be in a security zone. And a security zone implies lack of danger from within the zone first and foremost. General tension and readiness to continue is fairly high on all three sides. No one here is satisfied with the way things have been solved so far. [end recording]

Politicians and servicemen are unsatisfied, but what about the common people, who are forced to abandon their homes and who find themselves in refugee camps? According to estimates of representatives of the UN high commissioner for refugees, who take care of the problems of dispossessed people—housing, feeding and providing medical services for them—more than 4 million people in the former Yugoslavia are in need of such services. However, even here in the camps life goes on, children feel at home here and play merrily, old people talk about their own affairs, and everyone is making plans for the future.

This is Aleksandr Lutskiy reporting from Croatia for the "Utro" program.

Aide Outlines Chernomyrdin's Planned Foreign Visits

LD0305110694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 3 May 94

[(Text] An advisor of the Russian prime-minister Mikhail Tarasov has told INTERFAX that this year Viktor Chernomyrdin is to intensively travel abroad. Still visits to Russian regions and republics to see the situation and problems remain his priority.

Tarasov said that in mid-May the head of the cabinet is expected to make a one-day visit to Warsaw to resolve old problems blocking bilateral economic cooperation, in particular mutual settlements and the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union.

A visit to China is planned for the end of May. There Chernomyrdin should sign an impressive package of agreements, including documents on the demarcation of the border, shipping on the Amur river and in international waters, cooperation in agriculture and related industries as well as in environmental protection.

In June the prime-minister is expected to take part in the third session of the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission in the USA. In the framework of the commission six mixed committees have planned joint energy, space and nuclear power engineering projects.

In the second half of July, according to Tarasov, the Russian head of government is expected to tour Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. There attention will be centered around military-technical cooperation, the attraction of foreign investments and cooperation in fuel and power engineering.

The Russian Prime-Minister has been invited to visit the Czech republic and Slovakia as well as Bulgaria and Rumania.

At the end of the year he is expected to go to London.

During the next few months in Moscow Chernomyrdin is to hold talks with his counterparts from Austria, Vietnam, Mongolia, Denmark and other foreign countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Helping Russians Abroad

PM0205160194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Igor Andreyev: "Foreign Ministry Intends To More Actively Protect Rights of Russians Abroad"]

[Text] Boris Pastukhov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, has called on Russian diplomats to move resolutely toward Russian consular institutions in the CIS and Baltic countries. Summing up the results of a two-day conference of Russian consuls in the near abroad, the deputy minister even promised to cancel "far abroad" trips for Foreign Ministry staffers if they failed to work properly at consular level in the former Soviet republics.

Cases of illegality in respect of the Russian-speaking population in many countries of the near abroad are common knowledge, and the consular apparatus in some of them is still modest. In Latvia alone, Russian diplomats issued 23,000 visas last year. Consular officials in Estonia processed 18,000 permits to visit Russia. And, although in some places this embassy activity brings in considerable revenue—the visas issued by the diplomatic mission in Riga cost a total of $380,000—numerous restrictions prevent even part of the proceeds from being used for the apparatus' needs.

As of 28 April Lithuania has followed the other two Baltic states in introducing visas for Russians. Rules are rules, but even the strictest regulations should not exclude a humane approach in relations between countries in individual, dramatic circumstances. The deputy minister said that the episode of the burial of a Russian inhabitant of Estonia,

which relatives from Russia were not allowed to attend, was a situation that demeaned great Russia and Russians wherever they may live. These people did not have foreign passports and, however quickly preparations were made abroad, the Estonian authorities refused to stamp a visa on their internal documents. As a result, the relatives bade farewell to the deceased at the border bridge in Narva, and the coffin was sent back for burial on Estonian soil.

Condemning the position of the authorities in a number of CIS countries vis-a-vis the Russian-speaking population, Boris Pastukhov called on consular workers to be tougher, more vigorous, and "fiercer" [zleye] in defending the rights of ethnic Russians in the near abroad.

Talks With Estonia Produce No Results

LD0205180794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The last round of the Russian-Estonian talks ended practically without result, according to Reinart, head of the Estonian delegation. Russia has taken the date for completing troops withdrawal—31 August 1994—out of the draft agreement, but has not proposed any other date for discussion. According to Svirin, head of the Russian delegation, in discussions on the sea borders during the talks, disagreements were revealed concerning the point where they should be linked up with the border on land. Estonia insisted on the 1920 borders, whereas Russia is for setting the border line from the place where the present land border comes down to the Baltic Sea.

According to INTERFAX, the next round of talks will be held in Tallinn tomorrow.

Russian-U.S. 'Aspen Dialogue' Forum Opens in Sochi

LD0205123994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1208 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Sochi 2 May TASS—"America, as well as Russia, has not developed as yet a policy toward each other," said on Monday [2 May] member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Aleksandr Yakovlev who participates in the Russian-American forum "Aspen dialogue" which opened in Sochi today.

This international conference is attended by U.S. senators and congressmen, Russian legislators, politicians, top executives of enterprises and corporations from the two countries.

The present "Aspen dialogue" is the fifth in number. It was held in the city of Aspen, Colorado State, for the first time in August 1991 by the international association of industrial managers headed by Konsantin Zatulin (now chairman of the lower house committee on the Commonwealth of Independent States) and the U.S. international centre of civil administration headed by B. Sivella.

In the opinion of forum participants, it is being held now in the conditions when recent romanticism of Russian-American relations is passing into oblivion.

Andranik Migranyan, member of the presidential council and chief expert of the lower house committee on the CIS, noted that "on withdrawing from the Soviet Union, Russia has not found its bearings with its national and state interests as well as aims.

"The Russian foreign policy at the first stage was the continuation of the old Soviet and was aimed at responding to initiatives of Western countries.

"This policy created false impression about Russia as a country which had no specific national and state interests and seeks to join 'the big seven' and to pursue the same policy."

"We now witness the painful formation of Russian foreign policy," Migranyan noted.

This transition will be also promoted by the representative Russian-American forum "Aspen dialogue," which will work for five days.

Shumeyko on Chance To Resolve Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

LD0205163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The head of the upper house of the Russian parliament said the meeting between the heads of parliament of Armenia and Azerbaijan, due to take place in the Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek on 3-6 May, offered a chance to resolve the issue of Azerbaijan's disputed Armenian-speaking enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Vladimir Shumeyko, who arrived in Bishkek on Monday and the same day signed an interparliamentary agreement with the head of Kyrgyzstan's legislature, Meditkan Sherimkulov, said Azerbaijan had recently stated readiness to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as "one of the parties to the conflict." This is a "major step forward" in the negotiation process, Shumeyko said.

He said a peace mission of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States "has done a good deal" to achieve peace in the embattled enclave. "We will be working as much as necessary for the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh," he said.

Guliyev on Status of Nagorno-Karabakh Problem

PM0205164194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Azerbaijani Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev by Aydyn Mekhtiyev; place and date not given: "'Azerbaijan Will Not Be a Federal State.' Parliament Chairman Rasul Guliyev Hopes for Moscow's Mediation in Resolving Karabakh Problem"]

[Text] [Mekhtiyev] Mr. Guliyev, during the official visit to Moscow by your parliamentary delegation an "Agreement on Interparliamentary Cooperation Between the Russian

Federation [RF] Federal Assembly and the Azerbaijani National Assembly" was signed. How do you assess the prospects for cooperation between the parliaments of Azerbaijan and the RF?

[Guliyev] We attach very great importance to relations with the RF since we think that the RF, as the rightful heir of the former USSR, plays a tremendous role in both the region and the world as a whole. We regard the document we have signed as a very important step toward developing partnership relations. We agreed to regularly exchange information regarding the two countries' current legislative activity and also to help synchronize ratification processes in respect of agreements concluded between the two countries.

[Mekhtiyev] It is known that during your delegation's talks with the RF leadership discussion of the Karabakh problem was one of the main topics. Did you succeed in reaching agreement in your approaches to resolving this problem?

[Guliyev] Both sides were unanimous that it is pointless continuing the war. As a first step it is necessary to ensure a cease-fire in the region, then start pulling back the troops a certain distance, and lastly completely withdraw Armenian troops from the occupied territories. We think that these phases should be completed within 30-40 days. Once all of the above terms have been met discussion of the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh can begin.

[Mekhtiyev] RF Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said 28 April at the final press conference that it is necessary to acknowledge the existence of three warring parties while the conflict is being resolved, namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh. At the same time, official Baku is previously known to have repeatedly stated that the conflict is directly between Armenia and Azerbaijan....

[Guliyev] We are not opposed to Armenian representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh taking part in the coming talks, but the Karabakh Armenians cannot speak on behalf of the whole population of Nagorno-Karabakh. The point is that until the conflict began in 1988 almost 25 percent of the population of this former autonomous oblast were Azerbaijanis. As you know, they were all expelled. There can hardly be talk about defining the status of this territory without taking their opinion into consideration even though they are in exile. Azerbaijan is not about to become a federal state. When the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh is discussed it is necessary to proceed on the basis of the CSCE Council of Ministers decision of 1992, which stresses that this territory is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan.

[Mekhtiyev] Do you not think that the CIS should defend the sovereign rights of Azerbaijan more vigorously?

[Guliyev] At the moment, the Commonwealth is not making full use of its potential for defending this organization's member countries against possible aggression, and during the meeting of the heads of state in Moscow 15 April the abnormality of the situation where two members of the CIS are fighting among themselves was pointed out. The Commonwealth could make vigorous efforts to establish peace in the region. That is why, after signing the Treaty on Collective Security, Azerbaijan proposed an amendment whereby members of the CIS should be protected not only from outside aggression, but also from aggression from neighboring CIS countries and from occupied territories.

[Mekhtiyev] During their summit in Moscow the CIS leaders advocated the continuation of Russia's peace efforts to resolve the conflict and urged the world community to back the Russian plan for a peace settlement. However, reports appeared in the press saying that the Azerbaijani leadership refuses to accept the Russian plan for a settlement of the problem...

[Guliyev] It is inaccurate to use the word "refuse." The Azerbaijani leadership made several remarks about the peace plan that was proposed for discussion early this year. An updated version of the peace plan for the settlement of the Karabakh problem has now been taken as a base with consideration for our remarks and suggestions. At our insistence the plan under consideration includes a point, which makes provision for the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the Azerbaijani cities of Lachin and Shusha. We are indeed insisting that specific timeframes be given for the withdrawal of the Armenian forces of occupation from these and other occupied areas. Another way in which this plan differs from its predecessor is the principle of both sides' troops being pulled back. The previous plan made provision for the symmetrical withdrawal of both warring parties' troops, that is it was not only the Armenian side, occupying 20 percent of our territory, that was to pull back 20 km but also the Azerbaijani side; however, fulfillment of these terms would have jeopardized the safety of the civilian population in the abandoned areas.

We expressed doubts as to the advisability of a symmetrical troop withdrawal and our arguments were viewed with understanding by the Russian leadership. The previous draft did not give a precise indication of where the troops would be stationed following the withdrawal, thus enabling the Armenians to come up with their own interpretation of the accords reached.

[Mekhtiyev] Mr. Chairman, is the Russian plan not at variance with the CSCE Minsk Group's mediatory mission? Is one not conscious of a kind of rivalry between Russia and the CSCE in the peace efforts to resolve the Karabakh problem?

[Guliyev] I would venture to disagree with that assessment. The Minsk Group does not deny the role of Russia and the CIS in resolving the problem. There is plenty of scope here to coordinate the peace efforts made by Russia and the CSCE. I think that the presence of international observers in the conflict zone could play a positive role. They should monitor any breach of the accords by the sides.

Crimean Issue in Russian-Ukraine Relations Viewed

LD3004164994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 30 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The Ukrainian nationalists who put forward territorial claims to Russia and who speak about Kuban and "the north Slobozhanshina" (southern districts of the Kursk and Belgorod regions within the Russian Federation—INTERFAX) as about truly Ukrainian territories "are playing with fire." A prominent Russian expert, who is in charge for the problems of the Russian-Ukrainian relations, that's why he preferred to stay anonymous, expressed this opinion in his interview with INTERFAX.

In his words, "those Ukrainian politicians who strive "to pull out" Russia out of Crimea and "to possess" the entire Black Sea Fleet demonstrate the same play with fire. Unfortunately, separate officials in Kiev also voice identical statements," he noted.

As the expert said, "Russia does not raise the issue on Crimea's return at the official level" "As one can say, what has been done, has been done. In 1954 during the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Ukraine's and Russia's re-unification Nikita Khrushchev handed over Crimea to Ukraine with a stroke of the pen. Now it does not matter much that nobody asked the Crimeans about this. This wide gesture of the communist leader, who is often and, probably, justly called a precursor of one more reformatory, Mikhail Gorbachev, has not changed anything in the life of the peninsula or his citizens. The USSR has not only seemed, but it was a monolith in which the borders between its republics were of pure nominal and administrative nature," he pointed out.

The expert believes that after the collapse of the USSR "Yeltsin's team" had no choice but to recognize the territorial integrity of Ukraine within the former Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. "As if we have lacked only a conflict between Russia and Ukraine,—he noted.—Meanwhile, the time places everything to the proper place. If the emissaries from Kiev and Lvov had not tried to dictate their provisions to the Crimeans, had not implemented an artificial Ukrainization, and agreed to the introduction of the institute of dual citizenship then the situation in the Russian- speaking and pro-Russian Crimea could have remained more or less calm. However, Kiev has made an opposite decision and even has not let the democratically elected Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov to the negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian Defense Ministers Pavel Grachev and Vitaliy Radetskyy who were held in Sevastopol, that is in Crimea."

According to the expert, such actions are able "to blow up" not only Crimea but to undermine Ukraine's territorial integrity. "It is not necessary to be a prophet in order to forecast the results of the possible referendum on Crimea's withdrawal from Ukraine and its unification with the Russian Federation. One can ban a referendum and recognize it non-constitutional. However, one should not forget that even the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which has fixed the unchangeability of the post-war borders, admits that such a referendum is quite possible under certain provisions. And where is the guarantee that the Donetsk basin and Ukraine's whole Left Bank region would not follow Crimea? It is difficult to predict any answer under the forthcoming economic collapse of the Ukrainian economy," stressed the expert.

He expressed his supposition that "these premises make Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk force postponement of the presidential elections scheduled for 26 June." "It's interesting to note that the most active critics representing Ukrainian nationalists support Kravchuk's position. Apparently they understand what they do in this case," he made a conclusion.

Dubinin 'Still Optimistic' on Talks With Ukraine

PM0205132794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Presidents' Accords Will Be Implemented, Yuriy Dubinin, Ambassador at Large and Head of Russian Delegation to Talks With Ukraine, Believes"]

[Text] The objectives, overall direction, and course of Russia's policy on Ukraine are determined in an entirely precise and clear manner: They emerged back at the summit meeting in Dagomys. This being the course of friendship, cooperation, and partnership.

In proceeding to implement these objectives it is of course necessary to work like a sculptor who has to turn contours hewn out of stone into a statue: All the surplus elements must be removed from Russian-Ukrainian relations—everything that is impeding the development of friendship between the fraternal peoples. In other words, it remains to resolve a quite small number of problems that are in one way or another complicating our relations.

I would say more: Means of resolving these problems have already been outlined during summit-level meetings. In particular, this applies to everything pertaining to the Black Sea Fleet. It is merely necessary to find the key to implementing and carrying out the plans. This became particularly clear following the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers' recent talks in Sevastopol.

Why were they not completely successful? In my view because the presidents' directives enshrined in the Moscow agreement of 15 April were not fully carried out during these talks. To be utterly frank, they were only partially carried out with regard to the future of the Black Sea Fleet's ships. Russia has done as much as possible to accommodate Ukraine on this, and prospects for the implementation of the presidents' accords have actually emerged.

Regrettably, there has been no countermovement on the Ukrainian side as regards the first point of the agreement, to whit separate basing for the two republics' naval forces. We still have to work on reaching agreement on this. Nonetheless, I am still optimistic, and I am convinced that the peoples of Russia and Ukraine expect the talks to come to a conclusion in the very near future.

Equipment Idle While START II Unratified

PM0305102394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "U.S. Equipment Idle at Russian Missile Range"]

[Text] The racks visible in this photograph are on the third floor of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces' State Test Range located in the town of Mirnyy, Arkhangelsk Oblast. It is equipment made by the U.S. firm of "Metrum-97" [name as transliterated] for reproducing telemetry data. More precisely, it is a masgnetic tape player for decoding the flight parameters of strategic missiles developed and launched on test flights by the United States.

It was supplied here last year under a bilateral agreement between the countries, when the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II) was signed. Similar Russian-made equipment—in six rather than two racks—has been set up on U.S. soil near Washington by our officers.

It was assumed that when the two states' parliaments ratified the treaty, the countries would, as a mark of the trust between them, exchange telemetry and other information on the performance of their new and old strategic missiles, their behavior in flight, and other important information, which would allow the generals, politicians, and missile designers to take a calm and very respectful view of both sides' scientific and technical developments and to monitor them with greater confidence.

They even exchanged as a goodwill gesture reels of magnetic tape recordings of previous test telemetry. The Americans gave us information on their ground-launched missile, while we gave them information on our sea-launched missile. Once again, they sent us one spool, while we sent them several.

This is not a question of excessive generosity. It is simply that the Americans take the information on their missiles' behavior in flight from a single satellite, while our testers have to take the information from nine measuring stations sited along the country's northern seaboard. From Mirnyy to Kamchatka. There are stations in Naryan-Mar, Taymyr, Yakutsk, and even on Novaya

The information is sent back by military couriers. This is when aircraft are flying and reindeer are not roaming the tundra. [sentence as published]

Because of this the countries set the timetable for the exchange of telemetry at 50 days. Less than that would be impossible. Otherwise, there might be suspicions of dishonesty. It would then have to be proved that there was no way out from Novaya Zemlya. That would be no justification in military-diplomatic circles—especially as delivery of magnetic tapes is subsequently provided for by diplomatic pouch.

But, so far, there is nothing to deliver. Apart from the so-called demonstration reels, the high contracting parties have not exchanged anything else. Our parliament—neither the old one nor the new one—has not ratified START II.

A whole telemetry exchange department has been set up at the Russian test range. Colonel Aleksandr Vasilyev, its deputy chief, agreed to be photographed alongside the U.S. equipment for this newspaper. He says that they are not wasting time but are preparing to do serious work on the transatlantic missile information. In principle, they are already ready to do so.

So the ball is now in the State Duma's court.

Greek Foreign Minister's Visit to Moscow Postponed

LD0305111694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1042 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 May—The official visit of Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias to Russia, which was planned for 3-5 May, has been postponed to a later date at the request of the Russian side. The date of the visit has not yet been determined, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS today.

The main reason for the postponement is linked to the signing of the agreement "Gaza-Jericho—First" between the PLO and Israel, which will take place in Cairo tomorrow and which will be attended by Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, who left for the Egyptian capital today.

Olechowski, Kozyrev Hold Meeting in Moscow

LD2904193294 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Relayed by Warsaw TV Polonia Network in Polish]

[Text] [Announcer Jaroslaw Gugala] A private meeting between Polish and Russian Foreign Ministers Andrzej Olechowski and Andrey Kozyrev has taken place in the Polish Embassy in Moscow without the presence of journalists. Minister Olechowski believes that the eastern policy is one of the most important tasks of Polish diplomacy.

[Correspondent Witold Laskowski, Television Information Agency (TAI), Moscow, identified by caption] The meeting was a of a purely private character, but both politicians had time to discuss Polish-Russian relations. It is known, among other things, that, in June, Poland will be visited by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, and we can expect the visit of Boris Yeltsin himself to attend ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Rising on 1 August.

Minister Olechowski confirmed Andrey Kozyrev's international reputation of, as he put it, a splendid interlocutor. In the opinion of the head of our diplomacy, there is a good climate for pushing matters ahead in Polish-Russian relations. We agree with the Russians regarding the objective of Europe without frontiers, the only difference being that we want to achieve this by joining NATO, and the Russians see everything differently.

Navy Denies Reports on Pacific Fleet Maneuvers

LD0205133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1254 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Pacific Fleet is not conducting maneuvers and is not taking part in any exercises. This was how the Russian Navy's press center commented on reports by the foreign mass media about Pacific Fleet vessels taking part "in wide-scale maneuvers in the region of the South Kurils." It is alleged that Russia's surface fleet, in conjunction with ground and border troops, is working on the task of seizing foreign territories there.

It was explained to the ITAR-TASS correspondent at the Navy's main headquarters that the Red Banner Pacific Fleet is at present engaged in its usual training according to the schedule approved by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. Seven of the fleet's warships are being used in the "Putina" operation aimed at protecting the nation's natural wealth, including in the region of the South Kurils. The fleet's participation in joint actions with border guards and the air force to protect the state border and to curb mass poaching which is detrimental to Russia has not been concealed. It was specifically reported in both the Russian and foreign mass media.

In the view of specialists of the Navy's main headquarters, the situation in the Far East is rather difficult. However, in their words, it is not a case of our fleet being "aggressive," but rather of the rapidly changing situation. Pacific Fleet warships and forces of the Russian Border Troops are stepping up their efforts [to increase] the effectiveness of the "Putina" operation. This is not to the liking of those who in recent years have grown accustomed to making brazen use of marine resources which by rights belong exclusively to Russia. Naval seamen claim that this explains the appearance of material misinforming the world public.

Moscow Radio on U.S.-DPRK Talks on Armistice

SK0305051694 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Today's World" program]

[Text] The DPRK has (?proposed to the United States) that talks be held to conclude a peace agreement.

Station commentator (Aleksey Kondratyev) writes on this:

Today, the United States and the DPRK (?have been talking) on the [word indistinct] of the Armistice Agreement signed in 1953. According to Pyongyang, (?the Korea cease-fire) agreement is incompatible with today's situation. [passage indistinct] (?Relevant authorities) of the United States and the DPRK have been making informal contacts. They have even held high-level talks as many as two times. The third round of talks will discuss issues on normalizing the relations between the two countries [words indistinct].

The United States has been delaying talks for the reason that Pyongyang has expressed its own position regarding inspections of nuclear facilities. While Pyongyang refuses to accept complete international inspections of its own nuclear facilities, the United States persists in saying that it will only be willing to resume talks when the complete inspections are finished. [passage indistinct]

The United States has (?insisted) that the DPRK accept international inspections of the nuclear sites in Yongbyon. [passage indistinct]

Pyongyang is maintaining that the issue of inspections of the radiochemical laboratory should be raised only in the direct talks between the DPRK and the United States. The United States has also expressed its willingness to continue talks with the DPRK, holding that the nuclear issue should be resolved in a (?diplomatic) manner.

But, Washington is warning that international (?measures) can also be taken in case Pyongyang holds fast to an unconstructive position regarding nuclear inspections. But, if such sanctions are taken, the situation on the peninsula will (?become) more dangerous. So, today's task lies in easing the tension on the peninsula.

A measure to resolve the nuclear crisis in a peaceful way should be (?worked out). An international conference recommended by Russia will help (?make such a measure feasible).

Border Guards Conduct Raid on Chinese Poachers

LD0305061194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0604 GMT 3 May 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gorelov]

[Text] Birobidjan 3 May TASS—Borderguards of the Birobidjan detachment and inspectors of the Far Eastern Fishing Inspection have put up a reliable barrier to Chinese poachers, who began to violate Russian waters after the Amur river had cleared of ice.

As a result of one of the recent raids, they were able to prevent more than 20 poaching attempts in Russian waters. The borderguards confiscated hundreds of meters of small-mesh fishing nets and found many wooden and pneumatic boats, hidden on uninhabited Russian islands. Their crews had to be "fished out" of riverside brush. All the violators were deported from Russian territory.

ITAR-TASS was told at the headquarters of the Biribidjan borderguard detachment that such actions by borderguards and inspection teams would be carried out regularly this season. It was decided to put an end to the massive violations of the Russian border by Chinese poachers. The results of the first raid have shown that the situation can be kept under control.

Political Issues

200 Organizations Ready To Join Social Accord Treaty

LD0205115494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Over 200 Russian public organizations have expressed their readiness on 5 May to join the treaty on social accord, which was signed 28 April by the country's main political forces. This was announced by Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration. The treaty envisions rejection of violent actions to achieve political goals and the government has undertaken a number of obligations with a view to overcoming the socioeconomic crisis.

Accord Treaty Signatories, Nonsignatories Cited

PM0205111194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin report: "I Came, I Saw, I Signed. Religious Leaders Unanimous About Accord Treaty, Politicians Dubious"]

[Text] Our poor world loves a good argument. Judging by everything, most leaders of regions and political movements were guided by precisely this formula when they arrived in St. George's Hall 28 April to sign the Social Accord Treaty. Republic presidents, heads of kray and oblast administrations, and legislative assembly chairmen from virtually every region signed it. It was not signed only by N. Vinogradov and A. Tuleyev, chairmen of the legislative assemblies of Vladimir and Kemerovo Oblasts. Nikolay Vinogradov referred to the fact that he had not received the blessing of his legislative assembly. Aman Tuleyev commented clearly: "Let the president look at the lives of the miners. If something were to change for the better in their lives, I would sign it."

Nonetheless, all the rest were far more amenable. Why?

N. Fedorov, president of the Republic of Chuvashia:

"The treaty will not do any harm. In general I think that this is not currently the most important document that we should be fighting for. The reforms are not working. That is our headache."

M. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan:

"Without some kind of agreement in Moscow it will be hard to advance the reforms in the republics. So my signature is also a mark of support for the center."

A. Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia:

"Ossetia wants to live in a strong and peaceful Russia. I hope that the treaty will serve this purpose at least in some measure."

Yu. Vlasov, head of the Vladimir Oblast Administration: "I realize that the treaty is not historic. But it would be silly just now not to support any steps toward consensus."

So in territorial terms the concluded treaty may indeed have an effect. But what about in political terms? For instance, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the "Yabloko" parliamentary faction, did not pay his respects to the important Kremlin meeting at all; Vladimir Lukin, the other leader of the bloc, did so, but "purely symbolically"; while Vladimir Lysenko, leader of the Russian Republican Party, which is part of "Yabloko," appended his monogram. It is easy to predict that, even if organizational conclusions do not follow, some kind of action, angry response, or set-to is inevitable.

Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of Russia, also came up with a strong political trump card, which he played in the lobby: "They're good bedfellows—Yeltsin, Gaydar, and Zhirinovskiy. We want nothing to do with it."

Vasiliy Lipitskiy, leader of the "Free Russia" People's Party, called the treaty an "agreement on the inviolability of the regime," and does not believe that the Kremlin has taken a step toward political peace. Nor were the Cossacks unanimous—some hetman leaders came to St. George's Hall with their swords drawn, while others did not even think about leaving the confines of their own groups [pokidat predely svoikh volnits].

Only various religious leaders—Orthodox, Muslim, and Buddhist—were unanimous. They did not make any preconditions—they came, they saw, they signed. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church even made a good speech to mark the occasion.

So the likelihood of the treaty soon being forgotten cannot be ruled out. A great deal will now depend on the press. It is clear from the text of the treaty that the president is tasking it with monitoring the fulfillment of the treaty conditions. Well, that is something we are used to. That is not our main problem. The most important thing is that the press is not finally stifled by means of prices for newsprint and distribution. Otherwise there will be nobody left to call on people to be "pro" or "con."

Various Politicians Welcome Treaty

PM0205133994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "Hard Work and Fine Words"]

[Text] Most politicians who took part in the Civic Accord Assembly came along with the firm intention of signing the Treaty on Social Accord. Your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent was told by Anatoliy Tyazhlov, head of the Moscow Oblast administration, that he like others is carrying out the population's mandate. "The people have told us politicians on many occasions: Stop these battles and finally get down to the business of the economy and the social program." That is what we must now tackle in earnest, A. Tyazhlov believes. It is his conviction that the process of accord should "go downward": At any rate the oblast leadership intends to implement a similar conciliation procedure in the Moscow region. The Treaty must not be just an action on the part of Moscow and the Kremlin.

The Democratic Party of Russia is insisting on the Treaty's being given real substance; it is pressing for the process to be continued in conciliation procedures and for common solutions to be found in the economy and in policy, foreign policy included. Its leader Nikolay Travkin believes that the Treaty is designed to "launch the process" and is therefore essential as the first step on this difficult road. Federation Council member Vladimir Podoprigora is convinced that the signing is an extremely important moment, heralding an end to the stereotypical quest for an enemy that has become entrenched over many decades. People may express different political ideas, but they realize that the interests of society and the country are paramount and so renounce confrontation. The deputy hopes that a social atmosphere geared to accord can also prevail upon the hardline opposition, but in order for this he thinks it necessary to stop bad-mouthing those who have not signed the treaty. The opposition's opinion must be taken into consideration in order to adjust one's own policy and formulate the optimum state decisions.

This idea was indirectly reaffirmed by Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, who did not sign the treaty but said in the lobbies that the idea of accord is not alien to Communists and they will do their part to secure accord. But we would like to see concrete steps from the president and the government, G. Zyuganov said. We would like to see dialogue, support for the agro-industrial complex, and a real fight against corruption.

Representatives of the "Yabloko" deputies' faction did not sign the agreement on civic peace yesterday either. But that does not mean that the faction renounces accord, so one of its leaders, Vladimir Lukin, said. On the contrary it is willing to take an active part in all specific measures to establish real civic peace and promote real reforms, movement toward democracy, and maximum accord during this movement.

Nor did the Textile and Light Industry Workers' Trade Union immediately decide to subscribe to the Treaty. The position in the sector is a complex one, the trade union's chairman, Tatyana Sosnina, said. We held a protest action and picketed the government building but then we met with Viktor Chernomyrdin, decisions were adopted regarding support for the sector, and a sectoral wage agreement was signed. After which the presidium and the trade union's grassroots organizations authorized their leader to sign the treaty. Tatyana Sosnina believes that the treaty should be supplemented with concrete documents and that there should be economic "roundtables," where trade unions could highlight their position and protect working people's interests.

The document will work, Federation Council Deputy Chairman Valeryan Viktorov said, if all contracting parties really want to make definite concessions and compromises. The stabilization of the economic processes is undoubtedly one of the main conditions for accord in society. But the economy is now perhaps to a greater extent the hostage of politics, he said. If we can reach accord, things will be easier in the economy too. And the reverse will also happen: A normal economy will gradually stabilize the political process.

Everyone needs social accord. It is essential above all in order to extricate Russia from the protracted and profound economic crisis. As Akhsarbek Galazov, president of North Ossetia, said figuratively, it is necessary to unite in order for everyone to survive our cold political winter and to save Russia.

Karelia Leader Urges Follow-Through on Treaty

PM0205114994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Viktor Stepanov, head of Republic of Karelia Government, under the "Politics" rubric: "Confrontation Is Hopeless, Viktor Stepanov, Head of Karelia Government Believes"]

[Text] When pondering the prospect of securing civil accord, I remember December 1992 and the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. The country was on the verge of an acute crisis, but a means of accord was found then nonetheless. Regrettably, it was later cut short by the hard-line stance of both sides—that is how I regard the political events of the past year. And that is why I am convinced that it is not enough to make commitments, you have to know how to carry them out. I also apply that to myself. And that is what I expect of others too. We have a Constitution. However anyone looks at it, it has been adopted and is in force. And I think that not only the rights but also the duties of citizens, including officials and including in connection with the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord, should be observed. Not only in the political but also in the economic sphere. The state must make concrete pledges to formulate ways of escaping from the crisis. I am profoundly convinced that if we do not find ways of stabilizing the economy, ways of financial recovery, if we do not overcome the paralysis of the financial-credit system, this treaty may remain a pipe dream. Accord in society depends on the position of huge social groups of the population, and if we do not succeed in halting the impoverishment of the very poor, it will be fairly hard to actually secure accord. I think that the treaty is the first step toward our getting away from last year's tragedy. Confrontation is hopeless. I think that both those who subscribed to and are yet to subscribe to the treaty and those who do not sign it should all realize the responsibility they bear. It is not a question of each one of us, it is a question of Russian citizens and Russia.

'Accord for Russia' Says Social Treaty 'Propaganda'

PM0205105194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Favor of Accord in Action"]

[Text] The opposition movement "Accord for Russia" shares the idea of social accord, but regards the treaty

signed the other day as "another act of propaganda in which correct slogans merely serve to conceal an inept and destructive policy."

Accord cannot be achieved by the mere signing of an ostentatious document without specific commitments to society by the authorities, a statement adopted by the movement yesterday at an enlarged session of its council says. The document was circulated yesterday at a press conference of its leaders. The following participated in it: Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation; Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Board of the People's Party Free Russia (the party of Aleksandr Rutskoy); Mikhail Lapshin, leader of the Agrarian Party of Russia; Sergey Baburin, chairman of the Russian National Union; Stanislav Govorukhin and Sergey Glazyev, representatives of the Democratic Party of Russia faction; Aleksandr Prokhanov, chief editor of the newspaper ZAVTRA; and Aleksandr Tsipko, political scientist.

The authors of the statement consider that it is necessary first and foremost to agree on a change in the government course and on measures to save Russia, including "restoring the effectiveness of state power," preventing further growth in crime, and instilling order in the management of state property.

The initiators of the "Accord for Russia" movement issued a statement, which says in particular:

We are ready to seek accord through specific actions rather than participating in another act of propaganda where correct slogans and words merely serve to conceal an inept and destructive policy. Subscribing to it would mean agreeing to the destruction of the country's scientific and industrial complex, the mass plunder of state property and embezzlement of state funds, the degradation of our people, and the destruction of national spiritual values and culture.

All of us today have to agree first and foremost on a change of government course and on immediate measures to save Russia, including

—restoring the effectiveness of state power;

—preventing any exacerbation of crime and corruption and taking tough measures to ensure citizens are really safe and their property secure;

—instilling order in the management of state property and finances, preventing the economic bankruptcy of the state, achieving economic stabilization, and implementing progressive structural changes in the economy;

—ensuring proper social protection and fair distribution of the hardships involved in overcoming the crisis among all strata of society;

—searching for ways to meet the state's commitments to millions of depositors in view of the depreciation of their savings, instilling order in privatization, and ensuring the real protection of the interests of ordinary shareholders;

Accord and unification of society are only possible on the basis of these specific objectives and specific actions by the authorities.

We advocate accord in action rather than mere words. We can see a way of extricating the country from socioeconomic catastrophe and saving the Russian state and are ready to pool our efforts to further this great aim.

[dated] 27 April 1994.

Reasons for Not Signing Social Treaty Viewed

PM0205110594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Valentina Nikiforova report: "Nonsignatories"]

[Text] Here is the official report—of the 248 participants in the assembly, 245 signed the "Social Accord Treaty." Those are impressive figures. It was not signed by G. Zyuganov, chairman of the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee, or by N. Vinogradov and A. Tuleyev, chairmen of the oblast legislative assemblies of Vladimir and Kemerovo Oblasts respectively.

That would seem to be minor opposition. But that depends. If the leader of one of the largest political parties, which won one-third of the seats in the Federal Assembly elections, does not sign, then the organizers of the second edition of the failed "political new year" should ponder on it. It is not as a result of trivial disagreements that the Communist leader is refusing to sign—the party disagrees with the policy of the president and the government and is calling for it to be changed. For the sake of peace, harmony, and a dignified life.

The Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin deputies' faction was among the refuseniks. Its leader rightly believes that agreement can only be achieved on a specific issue.

The Agrarian Party of Russia had reasonable objections. The court chroniclers have called them self-seeking. Perhaps because the agrarians are sounding the alarm? Spring is in full swing, and there are major difficulties with the sowing—what will be left in the silos this fall?...

So those who are not signing the red papers are people whose view of Russia is not conditioned by the Kremlin.

Yeltsin Approves Initiative on Reinforcing Statehood

LD0205115894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has approved an initiative by Russian legal scholars on conducting research into ways and means of strengthenening Russian statehood. The head of state's press service reports that the president also confirmed by edict the main areas of this research which primarily concerns the formulation of legal enactments that have to be in line with the constitution.

One of the primary tasks envisioned is the drafting of laws on the government and on federal ministries. Scholars also

believe that legal enactments relating to the observance and protection of human rights and freedoms need to be brought into line with generally accepted principles and standards of international law.

Chernomyrdin Greets Journalists on Press Freedom Day

LD0305095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 3 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 3 TASS—"Every Russian citizen must always be sure that he will get only trustworthy information, only the truth from our newspapers, magazines, television and radio," Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin says in his message of greetings to Russian journalists on the occasion of the world freedom of the press day and the opening of the spring holidays of the free press.

"On the day of your professional holiday I want to wish you all from the bottom of my heart the best of health, creactive achievements, and successes in your far from easy job," the document says. "I respect your work very much, because it requires not only skill, but courage, civic audacity, and a huge sense of responsibility for the future and honour of our great Russia."

Chernomyrdin stresses that the freedom of the press, which is now the common boon of all the Russian people, is a great social achievement of the reviving Russia, which gives the journalists access to any information. "The government," the premier said, "is doing everything it can to allow every journalist, every citizen, to exercise his right to obtain information. It will back the mass media as much as it can, will make a practical contribution to the successful work of newspaper workers, publishers, TV and radio journalists."

Absentee Members Obstruct Presidium's Work

PM0205173594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Irina Savvateyeva report: "Ministers Have To Learn Genre of Explanatory Notes"]

[Text] Last Thursday millions of TV viewers had the pleasure of seeing some colorful scenes from the life of the Russian Government. There were brief pieces on the evening news about the Council of Ministers Presidium session, but how much interesting information they contained!

Now we know that our ministers and vice premiers, when they meet on Thursdays, are "not playing with toys but running the country!" (V. Chernomyrdin). And that attendance is a very strict matter for them. If people fail to show up, the ruling is brief—"take explanatory notes from all of them, including the deputy premiers." In short, it is stern!

Out of curiosity we attempted to know just which of the vice premiers would be reprimanded? It turned out that it was none other than Aleksandr Shokhin who could expect a scolding. IZVESTIYA was told in the other deputies' reception offices that their bosses had attended the Presidium session.

People may even have been angry with Shokhin. The fact is that the government has been unable for the second week running to conclude the hearings on the fulfillment of its own 9 March 1994 decree "On the Russian Economy's Position and the Prospects for its Development in 1994," where one of the main reporters was the Ministry of Economics representative.

This question was on last Thursday's agenda and, we were told by the government's press service, "its examination was not completed." Shokhin was on vacation at the time, and the report was delivered by his first deputy—Yakov Urinson. But at the last, scandalous, Presidium session the matter was removed from the agenda altogether. Owing to the absence of many government members, the television explained.

Incidentally, the minister of economics and one of his deputies may succeed in finding good reasons to explain away their absence. As of last Thursday he has been taking part in a session of the Interim Committee of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington as part of a large government delegation.

Admittedly, this alibi might be undermined by the fact that the session officially ended on Wednesday the 27th. And it has to be said that some delegation members were already back in Moscow Thursday morning. But not all. Viktor Vladimirovich Gerashchenko also failed to make it to the Presidium session. But we must assume that the head of the Central Bank and the vice premier will not simply be taking it easy in the Americas....

The premier is also said to be unhappy with the State Committee for the Management of State Property. Chubays, admittedly, did not blot his attendance copybook. But his deputies allegedly slipped up and failed to supply certain papers in time.

...The most interesting aspect of this story is—who will collect the reports? But how could there be any doubt—it will, of course, be Vladimir Petrovich Kvasov, leader of the government apparatus. To be honest, I would give a month's salary to be a fly on the wall when the ministers present their explanations.

And so what if they are ministers? God himself has ordered them to obey Kvasov; after all, the leader of the apparatus has also been elevated to ministerial rank by the current premier. And what about the vice premier? What about Viktor Vladimirovich Gerashchenko?...

Of course, as they say, it will not be easy for Viktor Chernomyrdin to handle the collective of ministers and vice premiers entrusted to him....

CIS Assembly Envoy's Tasks Defined

PM0205145194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 4

["Directive No. 204-rp of the Russian Federation President on the Ratification of the Statute on the Authorized Representative of the Russian Federation President at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member

States," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 25 April 1994; followed by the text of the "Statute on the Authorized Representative of the Russian Federation President at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States"]

[Text] 1. The attached Statute on the Authorized Representative of the Russian Federation President at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States is hereby ratified.

2. The maximum size of the working apparatus of the Russian Federation president's authorized representative at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States is to be five persons.

3. The leader of the Russian Federation president's administration is to establish the structure and staffing levels of the working apparatus of the Russian Federation president's authorized representative at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] 25 April 1994

No. 204-rp

Statute on the Authorized Representative of the Russian Federation President at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States

1. The Russian Federation president's authorized representative at the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States (hereafter—the representative) is to facilitate the Russian Federation president's collaboration with the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States (hereafter—the Assembly), and also with the Federal Assembly's delegation at the Assembly, and with organs of the Assembly.

2. The representative is a federal state official, appointed to his post and relieved of his post by the Russian Federation president on the representation of the leader of the Russian Federation president's administration.

The representative is directly subordinate to the Russian Federation president.

3. The representative is to be guided in his activity by the Russian Federation Constitution, the laws of the Russian Federation, the edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, the decrees and directives of the Russian Federation government, and also by the statutory documents regulating the activity of the Assembly and by the present statute.

4. The representative fulfills the following tasks:

a) he represents the Russian Federation president in collaboration with the Assembly and its organs and officials, with the delegations and parliamentary delegates of the CIS member states, and the organs of state power of the CIS member states on questions of the Assembly's activity;

b) he informs the the Russian Federation president on the Assembly's activity;

c) he promotes the observance of international treaties and other statutory acts regulating the Assembly's activity and the support thereof;

d) he coordinates the activity of the federal organs of executive power and the St. Petersburg organs of executive power in supporting the Assembly's work and monitors the fulfillment of the Russian Federation president's edicts and directives and the Russian Federation government's decrees and directives concerning the support of the Assembly's activity;

e) he exercises other powers on the instructions of the Russian Federation president.

5. In order to achieve tasks assigned to him, the representative has the right:

to ask and receive according to established procedure necessary information from organs of state power, institutions, organizations, and enterprises;

to use the data banks in the Russian Federation president's administration;

to use state—including government—communications systems.

6. The representative's activity is coordinated by the Russian Federation president's administration.

7. For the purpose of organizing the activity of his apparatus the representative:

a) appoints and dismisses apparatus staffers in line with Russian Federation legislation;

b) issues directives on questions of the internal work routine and establishes official instructions;

c) sends staffers on tours of duty according to established procedure;

d) exercises other powers as a leader as stipulated in Russian Federation legislation.

8. The representative's activity is funded from federal budget funds allocated for the maintenance of the Russian Federation president's administration, in accordance with the estimate ratified by the leader of the Russian Federation president's administration.

9. The representative is to be provided with official premises, transport, means of communication, and office machinery, and also medical and social services by the Russian Federation president's administration and the St. Petersburg organs of state power on the basis of agreements with the Russian Federation president's administration.

10. The Russian Federation state coat of arms is to be placed in the representative's work office.

11. The representative is to take up his position at the venue of the Assembly—in St. Petersburg.

Citizenship Commission Head Sees Future 'Integration'

PM0205143194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Abdulakh Mikitayev, chairman of the Russian President's Citizenship Commission, by Nikolay Musiyenko; date and place not given: "Not a Great Migration but Dual Citizenship. Every Soviet Person Could Receive a Russian Passport"]

[Text] Let me introduce my interlocutor. Abdulakh Mikitayev was born in 1942 in the village of Malka, in Kabardino-Balkaria, 30 km from Pyatigorsk. After secondary school he went to the Mendeleyev Chemical Technical Institute in Moscow. As a postgraduate student he defended his candidate's dissertation. Then, as a young "mature" academic, he went to Nalchik to teach at the Kabardino-Balkaria University. He soon became a senior lecturer and head of a department and took a doctorate. He created a whole scientific school in the field of polymer chemistry. On a voluntary basis he chaired the Kabardino-Balkar Republic Committee for the Defense of Peace. In the last Russian Supreme Soviet he was head of the science subcommittee. In March 1992 he became chairman of the Russian Federation President's Citizenship Commission.

[Musiyenko] Abdulakh Kasbulatovich, we are not going to look now for those to blame for the disintegration of the USSR or discuss whether that could have been prevented. Unfortunately, the fact remains that the Soviet state no longer exists and tens of millions of Russians and those who consider Russian their native language suddenly found themselves in a foreign country, albeit a "neighbor." Their fate in many former Union republics is, to put it mildly, unenviable.

[Mikitayev] You are right, the disintegration of the Soviet Union was a tragedy for many people, very many people. In recognizing the newly independent states formed from the republics of the former USSR, Russia proceeded from the premise that their governments, in accordance with the norms of international law, would fulfill their duty toward Soviet citizens and not allow their ethnic, linguistic, religious, or other rights to be infringed. Such principles are enshrined in a number of international conventions as well as in treaties between the Russian Federation and the states which have achieved independence. But what happened was that real sovereignty went to the heads of the ruling politicians there to such an extent that they got carried away and embarked on a course of driving the Russian language out of use in society and offended the Russian-speaking population in every way possible. That is true above all of the Baltic countries, but in some CIS states, too, people hailing from Russia are now living in a state of spiritual oppression.

You have noted, of course, that the Russian Federation as the successor in law to the USSR is trying to defend the rights of former Soviet citizens and to that end is employing diplomatic channels and the authority of various international organizations. With some success. But unfortunately by no means total success. Because even within the framework of the CIS there is still no efficient mechanism for implementing treaties and agreements signed by the heads of states. Nor are there any mandatory sanctions which follow inevitably if accords are not observed. I hope that these shortcomings will be eliminated in due course.

[Musiyenko] Let us clarify whom precisely you are concerned about. Those who have officially been given Russian citizenship but are continuing to live in, for example, Uzbekistan? Or those who are Russian by blood, irrespective of whether they hold citizenship of the Russian Federation? Or citizens of the former USSR of any nationality who have been refused citizenship of the states on whose territory they are now living?

[Mikitayev] All three categories. The Russian Federation Law "On Citizenship" allows Russian citizenship to be granted to anyone who has retained a USSR citizen's passport regardless of their place of residence. But of course, we pay greater attention to emigrants from Russia and their offspring.

Russians have been living for centuries in many republics—Kazakhstan, for instance—and have long been part of the indigenous population. In the past they occupied vacant lands and did not force anyone out. Now, although N. Nazarbayev denies that there are interethnic problems in Kazakhstan, what we are seeing is an exodus of Russians from that republic to Russia. I think the reason why is clear: Russian has lost the status of an official language there and it is primarily Kazakhs who are being appointed to leading posts even in oblasts where Russian speakers predominate.

Admittedly, mutual understanding has emerged between Russia and Kazakhstan on these problems recently, as is demonstrated by the memorandum on the fundamental principles of resolving questions connected with the citizenship and legal status of Russian Federation citizens permanently resident on Republic of Kazakhstan territory and of Republic of Kazakhstan citizens permanently resident in Russia, signed by B. Yeltsin and N. Nazarbayev.

[Musiyenko] There is a great deal of talk today about dual citizenship, but many people clearly do not understand what it is.

[Mikitayev] I also get the feeling that certain heads of state have still not grasped the essence of this problem and do not understand what moral advantages their states stand to gain from the conclusion of dual-citizenship agreements with Russia. Clearly they believe that such an agreement will infringe their countries' sovereignty. Nothing of the kind. No one would claim that France, for example, has ceased to be an independent state because it has concluded a dual citizenship agreement with Canada, a country with many French-speaking inhabitants.

I can also quote a positive example from the CIS. At the end of December 1993 an agreement of this type was signed between Russia and Turkmenistan. There have been no dire consequences. We did not see hordes of Russians resident in Turkmenistan hurrying off at the crack of dawn to get an earlier place in the waiting line outside the

Russian embassy. Why worry, if everyone knows that if they need a second passport they can get one at any time—or in five years, or 10....

I would put it this way: The institution of dual citizenship is a symbol of trust between two states, evidence that they want to live with one another in peace and good-neighborliness, without harboring grudges.

Incidentally, dual citizenship has long been a reality regardless of whether Russia has signed a corresponding agreement with another state. Russian legislation does not require that you relinquish citizenship of your country of residence on receipt of citizenship of the Russian Federation. We did that deliberately in the interests of our fellow countrymen. Furthermore, the laws of some CIS states grant their fellow countrymen the same opportunity (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan).

[Musiyenko] Is it difficult for someone living in, say, Ukraine, to take out Russian citizenship?

[Mikitayev] Legally and technically there are no problems here. The problem is that Ukraine does not yet have a network of Russian Federation consular establishments. This means that in order to take out a Russian passport you have to go all the way to Kiev. And that takes time and money. However, in the next few months Russia plans to open several consulates on Ukrainian territory, including one in Simferopol.

[Musiyenko] What advice would you give to those who have nevertheless made the difficult decision to leave their old haunts and start a new life back in the motherland—in Russia?

[Mikitayev] If you have no family, housing, or work there, the best thing to do first is to apply to the Russian Federation embassy or consulate, where there are bound to be representatives of the federal migration service. They will help you choose your future place of residence, obtain a loan, and process all the documents. But what often happens is that people gather up their possessions, buy tickets, and head for Moscow, where they have no accommodation to go to and instead camp out in front of various official institutions....

[Musiyenko] I am aware that a concept of Russian Federation state policy with regard to fellow countrymen living abroad was formulated recently.

[Mikitayev] Yes, our commission participated directly in its preparation. It covers the most diverse aspects—from efforts aimed at restoring citizen status to the "non-indigenous" inhabitants of Latvia and Estonia and the enshrinement of the institution of dual citizenship in law to the preservation of a single information area on the territory of the former USSR and of the Russian language as the means of communication among the different nationalities. Based on international law and the wealth of world practice we are also going to help Russian communities and other associations of ethnic Russians in the neighboring foreign countries and give those who have decided to migrate to Russia help in settling down here.

[Musiyenko] Will this concept not remain on paper alone?

[Mikitayev] I do not think so. In any event, our commission, with the president's support (it was he who, concerned for the fate of our fellow countrymen, instructed the commission in the fall of 1993 to submit proposals on the protection of their rights and interests), will constantly monitor the work of the government, the federal migration service, and other state organs charged with putting this concept into practice. The program for the protection of the ethnic Russians in the neighboring foreign countries is already near to completion at government level, and a financial basis is being prepared for it.

[Musiyenko] Is this not going to be another pretext for people to accuse Russia of harboring imperial designs?

[Mikitayev] Let those who express that opinion have it on their conscience. We are acting in the interests of our country and of the newly independent states equally. Russia does not need another "great migration of the peoples"—it is simply in no position to provide tens of millions of refugees and migrants with everything that they need. But the republics of the former Union do not need a mass exodus of top-class specialists and manpower either: That will inevitably cause them tremendous economic harm and will prove to be a time-bomb placed under those states. But all this can be avoided; all it needs is for discrimination against ethnic Russians [russkiye] and Russian speakers to be ended and for their civil rights to be recognized in full. Russia, in turn, recognizes the right of other states to take care of their fellow countrymen living in the Russian Federation.

In the long term however, I am confident that we will surely arrive at a new union of the European type—with single citizenship and complete freedom of movement, both for the workforce and for goods. This will happen not in 50 years time but much sooner, because we have not yet forgotten the experience of mutual relations among the peoples in the economy, culture, and everyday life. The first signs of the approaching integration are already in evidence....

Economic & Social Issues

Unemployment Predicted To Rise to 3 Million

PM0305080194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "How Many Unemployed Will There Be?"]

[Text] The number of Russia's unemployed is rising by 70,000 a month. The Federal Employment Service [FES] estimates that the tendency for unemployment to rise is fairly steady and will persist in the near future, Oleg Semenov, head of the FES Consolidated Analysis Department, said.

Around 1 million Russian citizens today are officially ranked as unemployed. The service predicts that by the end of the year the number of registered unemployed will reach 3 million, or 5 percent of the working population.

According to FES experts, the number of jobless and "unofficial" unemployed will reach 12 million.

FES personnel are particularly worried at the increase in partial unemployment, i.e. the increase in the number of people working part-time or on enforced unpaid leave.

O. Semenov hypothesized that by this December there will be 5-8 million people in partial employment.

However he did not agree with the forecast that there will be an "upsurge" of unemployment in the near future, saying that can only happen if "enterprise bankruptcy mechanisms are started up."

March Figures Show Recession Continuing To Worsen

PM0205150794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[BIZNES-TASS report: "The Lower the Inflation, the Worse the Recession"]

[Text] The first quarter of 1994 saw the greatest reduction in industrial production since the reforms began. Whereas in February there had been some slowing down in the pace of the recession, in March the decline in production accelerated again. This information comes from the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy.

In the first quarter of 1994 the depth of the recession in industrial production was over 20 percent compared with the corresponding period last year. Whereas at the beginning of last year the dynamics of the recession were beginning to ease off, this year the movement is heading upward (January—23.1 percent, February—24.1 percent, March—27.4 percent).

In the opinion of Economy Ministry experts, the greatest reduction has occurred in the processing sectors. At 26.8 percent the fall in the production of consumer goods was greater than the fall in industry as a whole.

As the chief of a ministry department said in conversation with your BIZNES-TASS correspondent, the greatest cause for concern today is the fact that the reforms have not touched the technological structure of production. The majority of enterprises cannot reduce production costs and thus cannot cope with the reduced demand, especially at a time of substantially increased competition in the domestic market from foreign producers.

Latest Central Bank Credit Auction Fails

PM0205172994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kucherenko report: "Third Credit Auction Did Not Go Ahead"]

[Text] The third credit auction to place Bank of Russia centralized loans with Moscow banks was to have been held in Moscow 26 April, but like the second one it did not go ahead.

According to the Central Bank of Russia's Moscow administration, a total of 9 billion rubles was put up for auction at an annual interest rate of 203 percent, that is 5 percent below the Central Bank rate. However, none of the Moscow banks applied to take part in the auction.

It is thought that the reason for this is the extremely tough requirements that auction participants have to meet, and therefore people wanting to buy money were simply afraid of showing "Central Bank operatives" the state of their affairs. At the same time "robust" Moscow establishments which could quite easily have gained access to the auction already have adequate resources. There is no reason for them to acquire credit: An interbank market developed in Moscow long ago, where money can be bought far more cheaply.

Auto Producers Agree To Pool Resources

PM0205170194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Boris Bronshteyn report: "Kamaz and VAZ Discover Common Interests"]

[Text] Naberezhnyye Chelny—At a meeting of "KamAZ" stockholders, General Director Nikolay Bekh made an announcement which many people saw as sensational: "KamAZ" and "VAZ" intend to set up a holding-type Volga-Kama financial and industrial group.

"We have signed a memorandum on the creation of the holding company," Nikolay Bekh said in conversation with this IZVESTIYA correspondent. "We share many problems with 'VAZ.' For instance, a whole number of associated plants supply their output to 'VAZ' and 'KamAZ' simultaneously. And both motor vehicle plants have an interest in supporting these suppliers. Or take a common problem such as capacity utilization at our own enterprises, instrument-making, and machine-tool-building plants. We will compile a common cyclical timetable for the preparation of new vehicles—both trucks and cars—and will make sure that these plants are operating to full capacity.

"One other problem is our representation abroad. Both auto giants maintain their own subunits in many countries to deal with spares, repairs, and advertising—and this expenditure will be reduced if these efforts are combined."

The idea of pooling the motor plants' efforts has been around for a long time, but, as Bekh said, when state enterprises collaborate, ambitions often prevail—who is more important, more significant, older.... But when enterprises are floated, people start primarily counting the money and looking to see what is more profitable. A vivid example of this is that, barely having agreed to set up a holding company, "KamAZ" and "VAZ" adopted an agreement which people had tried unsuccessfully to achieve for seven years—it was decided to set up a joint company to produce "Oka" cars.

"We had each made these cars at our own plans, now assembly will take place solely at 'KamAZ'," Nikolay Bekh explained. "We have built a new block, the 'VAZ' will transfer their welding equipment to us and increase engine production. We are setting ourselves the target of producing 75,000 vehicles a year."

In uniting to solve specific problems, "KamAZ" and "VAZ" are in no way losing their independence. It is merely a question of coordinating their common financial interests. Having won the stockholders' support, Nikolay Bekh supposes that the final signing of the documents setting up the Volga-Kama financial and industrial group will take place no later than May.

Number of HIV Cases in Russia Reaches 742

LD0205222394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2155 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Currently 742 instances of HIV infection are registered in Russia. Specialists think that it is merely a tenth of the total number of infected people.

The Russian Federal Scientific and Methodological Center to combat AIDs is the main body dealing with the problem. Vadim Pokrovskiy, its head, said that there was no radical method of treatment for AIDS thus far. Prevention is, therefore, the only option here. However, it is mainly the costs of treatment that are being met so far. Thus, for instance, the 130 AIDS patients at the clinic in Sokolinyye Gory are served by personnel numbering 340 specialists.

Enormous resources are being spent to find out who is infected, but there are only three people from the center to combat AIDS that work in the area of prevention.

This 20th century plague has claimed 105 lives in Russia to date.

Synthetic Drug Lab in St. Petersburg Raided

LD0305045094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 May 94

[Video report by M. Velikoselskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] St. Petersburg remains the Russian leader in the illegal production of synthetic narcotics. Another underground laboratory was eliminated here a few days ago. A promising chemist and a capable manager combined their skills and prepared for sale a very rare and extremely effective drug. Its value on the narcotics market exceeds four billion rubles, and the number of single portions produced may be over a million. The state has confiscated from those arrested a large quantity of chemical reagents, laboratory equipment, and notes describing an original procedure for synthesizing narcotics, which the authors do not want to patent for the time being.

Patriarch on Orthodox Schism, Western Churches

PM0305120594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Patriarch Aleksiy of Moscow and All Russia by special correspondents Aleksandr Kalinin and Dmitriy Shevarov "at the patriarch's residence in Moscow"; date not given: "I Wish Everyone Spiritual Peace"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] We know how badly you feel about the schism in the Orthodox Church in Ukraine and the expansion of Catholicism in Belorussia [Belarus]. In recent days relations with Ukraine have reached the danger mark. Do you intend to undertake any efforts to avert schism in the family of Slavic peoples?

[Aleksiy] Schism is always a tragedy, always a sorrow. And in church life schism is pernicious when people tear themselves apart and differ mainly over political, not church issues. We have felt keenly, and still feel keenly, what has happened in Ukraine. But we are glad that, nevertheless, 5,000 parishes have remained true to the church headed by Metropolitan Vladimir, and only 400 have broken away. Moreover, many of these are actually returning today, and a process of returning to the fold is under way in various places. We have granted the Orthodox Church in Ukraine and Belorussia autonomy in affairs of internal administration, allowing for the fact that the Orthodox Church exists in conditions of sovereign states and under the laws adopted in these states; but the preservation of organic unity is essential.

As for expansion, the Catholic expansion occurred several years ago in the western oblasts of Ukraine; Polish Catholic priests are very active in Belorussia. And were it not for the process of the integration of Moscow and Minsk, the ideology of the Western world would reach Smolensk.

We are not calling for crusades, but we must consolidate Orthodox eparchies and revive the parishes which were destroyed. Unfortunately, there were many parishes destroyed in Belorussia. It was supposed to be the first atheist republic. And this plan was systematically implemented. Therefore, the loss which Belorussia suffered on the church plane is huge. And to restore everything which was destroyed is not so easy. This is our task—to return people to their Orthodox roots. And then it will be easier to counter the expansion which is going on.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You have been talking with alarm for many years about the wave of foreign missionaries and preachers that has swamped Russia and the perniciousness of the spread of sects, but the situation seems to be becoming increasingly forlorn. It is obvious that the Russian Orthodox Church has proved to be unprepared for such strong propaganda pressure from all sides.

[Aleksiy] Unfortunately, we are not on equal terms with all the foreign missionaries and priests who have flooded into Russia today. I have received many letters appealing to me: Surely you have someone you can send on to television; why do we have to watch Korean, Japanese, and American priests on three television channels on a Sunday? We have people to send, and we have frequently raised the question of being granted airtime. This question is moving forward, but it is difficult; meanwhile foreign missionaries and priests have paid for airtime up to the end of the year.

The archbishop of Vladivostok recently told me that Vladivostok has been inundated with protestants from China, Japan, and South Korea—souls are being bought. The highest price is a tanned fur coat; the usual is a humanitarian aid package.

Once again we are not in an equal position. For instance, in the Cathedral Church of the Epiphany in Moscow the only thing that we are able to do for our fellow citizens for Easter is to bake and hand out around 3,000 Easter cakes to the needy. [passage omitted]

Military Issues

Newspaper Supplement Covers Defense Industry

PM0305114594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Article by Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, under the "Russian Weapons" rubric: "Country's Security Cannot Be Ensured without Strong Defense Industry"]

[Text] The existence of modern, powerful armed forces is impossible without a strong defense industry, design bureaus, scientific collectives, and stable cooperation in the development and production of arms. That is axiomatic.

In turn defense production facilities can be effective under present conditions if they are part of powerful diversified industrial companies and financial and industrial groups—efficient components of the market economy.

Today the defense industry and science complex is living through exceptionally complex times. In the past few years it has undergone substantial changes. On average at enterprises of Russia's former defense complex the volume of defense production is 20 percent of the total production volume. Despite all efforts, the optimum path for the development of defense science and technology and defense production facilities under the conditions of the changes taking place in our country has still not been elaborated. Although many outlines of this path have already become clearer. Collective intelligence is needed for its elaboration, as is the comprehensive examination not only of the military, economic, and technological aspects but also of the social and legal aspects of this problem.

The new supplement in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA can ensure such collective thinking. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already done quite a lot to cover these problems under present conditions but I am sure that it can do even more.

Today a particularly strict, self-critical, extremely attentive and scrupulous examination of the problems of providing arms for the army and navy is needed. I think that with this sober, analytical approach constantly illumined with a high sense of concern for Russia's supreme interests and for our fatherland's defense capability, our newspaper's new supplement will be an important step forward in preserving and augmenting Russia's defense industry potential in its optimum dimensions for the state and the army.

I very much hope that the newspaper will inter alia help reveal and educate new leaders of our defense industry and science. And for that, however paradoxical it may seem, you often have to look into the past and extract from it as much as you can in the way of lessons for the present and future.

Armaments Chief Sitnov Views Financing

PM0305110194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Colonel General Anatoliy Sitnov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Armaments, by correspondent Valentin Rudenko under the "Russian Weapons" rubric, date and place of interview not stated: "It Is Not Enough To Replace Anger with Kindness or How Further Reduction of Volumes of Financing for State Defense Order Could End"]

[Text] It is no secret that in recent years the defense complex has been seen by public opinion as virtually a monster growing fat on the people's money, which means our money. Today, thank god, it seems everyone has worked out who is who. Now calls of another kind are being heard—calls to save the defense industry which, as a result of the overwhelming reduction in the defense order, unconsidered conversion, and diversification, has been brought to a critical state. Many enterprises have come to a halt, others are on the verge of stoppage. Every third designer, engineer, and worker has left the military-industrial complex. But despite that in the budget for 1994 it is planned approximately to halve appropriations for defense. And it is planned to reduce appropriations for research and development 130 percent and appropriations for purchases of weapons and military equipment 450 percent. What threat does this entail for the army, design bureaus, scientific research institutes, plants, and Russia as a whole? That was the question which began our correspondent's talk with Colonel General Anatoliy Sitnov, chief of armaments of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

[Sitnov] If the defense budget is approved in precisely this form the Defense Ministry will be obliged, having paid its debts for 1993 and for deliveries which have already been made in 1994, to release the remaining appropriations to ensure nuclear safety and the safety of the Navy's ships and vessels undergoing construction and repair and nearly ready for delivery and to finance work on guarantee supervision and the solution of priority tasks in the operation of armaments and military equipment.

Contracts for the delivery of the remainder (over 80 percent) of the arms and military equipment envisaged by the state order will have to be dissolved. But the Russian Federation Government must make an official decision on the complete repeal of the state order for 1994.

It is obvious that all this will entail catastrophic consequences. The development and production of arms and military equipment will be halted and all scientific and technical programs of a defense nature will be curtailed at over 3,000 industrial enterprises and organizations and over 4 million people will be left without work.

In addition it will be necessary to channel additional funds (about 6,000 billion rubles [R]) from the state budget to maintain the fixed capital of enterprises (heating, water, electricity, security, and so forth) and to pay unemployment benefits.

[Rudenko] What are the armed forces' real requirements today for new combat equipment and weapons systems and to what degree are they being met by industry?

[Sitnov] To meet the armed forces' required level of combat readiness and capability by the year 2006 the provision of weapons and military equipment should be 80-100 percent. These indicators can be achieved on condition that average annual volumes of deliveries are increased 50-100 percent compared with existing ones.

Here the proportion of modern models will be less than 50 percent. To achieve a level of 60 percent modern models for all main types of weapons as is the case in the Western countries' armed forces, we must increase average annual deliveries three to five times.

Realizing that under the conditions of restricted financing this is unlikely, the Defense Ministry's main efforts are aimed today at ensuring priorities in the development of arms and military equipment, modernizing existing arms, expanding their standardization among the branches of the armed forces, and reducing their range, increasing the reliability and quality of repair and technical servicing with a view to extending operational life.

[Rudenko] Which avenues for the development of arms and military equipment are regarded as the priority ones and how are they being financed?

[Sitnov] We rate as priorities in the armed forces' armaments system the strategic forces and facilities, intelligence and communications facilities, automated control systems, the improvement of the efficiency of various classes of conventional arms, means for the serviceman's combat and technical equipping meeting the requirements of modern combat, and the preparation of the necessary scientific and technical groundwork for key elements of promising models of weapons.

Right now a special "list of models of arms and military equipment whose production must be retained in any economic situation" has been drawn up. Thus in 1993 about 80 percent of appropriations envisaged for research and development was spent on financing priority work. This year, in connection with the uncertain nature of volumes of financing for the state defense order, it is planned to earmark 60-70 percent of appropriations for these purposes.

[Rudenko] A recent Defense Ministry conference showed arms purchases graphs. They virtually all showed a downward curve. Where is the critical level below which there is catastrophe?

[Sitnov] However painful it is to say this, already the production of a number of types of arms and military equipment is below the minimum permissible level. We regard as critical the level below which the disintegration of manufacturing processes and production cooperation begins.

In 1992-1993 arms production volumes were reduced by a factor of seven to eight. Therefore the Defense Ministry, the State Committee for the Defense Industry, and the Ministry of the Economy elaborated the state order for 1994, which basically makes it possible to preserve the defense potential in the country's interests. But its execution is now under threat of disruption. Insufficient volumes of financing have in practice already led to the nonfulfillment of the plan for the first half of the year.

[Rudenko] Is the advance funding of the state defense order being carried out, as prescribed by the relevant edict of the Russian president?

[Sitnov] Ensuring advance funding for work on the development and production of output (commodities, operations, services) within the limits of up to 20 percent of the annual volume of budget appropriations for the purchase of arms, military equipment, and scientific and technical output for military purposes is something that we are not yet able to do. As of 1 April this year, for instance, only 4 percent of the required volume of funds had been earmarked for advance funding of the defense order.

As for research and development, there is virtually no advance financing. All income funds (about 5 percent of those requested) go to cover expenses on work which has already been carried out or is being carried out.

[Rudenko] Many leaders of defense firms complain not so much of the lack of the defense order as of the lack of certainty. There is the long-standing question of hiving off so-called public plants which would make up the nucleus of the defense complex and have a guaranteed state order. Has the list of these plants been approved?

[Sitnov] Such a list has been compiled. It is now being coordinated in the ministries and departments concerned. But even if a decision is made at government level to transform these enterprises and organizations into public ones, the question remains of the smooth financing, in the necessary volumes, of the state defense order which they are fulfilling.

[Rudenko] What measures should be taken to stabilize the state of affairs in the defense complex and to fulfill the state defense order for 1994?

[Sitnov] Above all it is essential really to implement the guaranteed budget financing (the even receipt of money over the year with the funds' prompt and full indexing with inflation) and material and technical provision of the state defense order. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry must be allocated appropriations for advance payment of those who carry out the work. All benefits connected with the fulfillment of work on the products list of the state defense order must be extended to the fulfillment of work on the products list of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's direct order.

Banks of any form of ownership must be set a three-day deadline for forwarding Defense Ministry payments to those who have carried out the work and fines must be introduced for violating this deadline. Special accounts must be opened for those who carry out the work into which advances and current payments from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry would be paid. Money from

these accounts should be used only for expenses connected with the fulfillment of the state defense order. The creation of a standard legal base for planning and implementing the state defense order must be completed.

We realize that in the present economic and financial situation it is difficult to fulfill all these conditions. But it must be done. Otherwise Russia will not simply large behind the leading Western countries but will lose the ability to produce modern arms and military equipment systems.

Committee Sues Cosmodrome for Environmental Damage

LD0205210694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 2 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The command of the Russian launch facility of Plesetsk has admitted that rocket launching causes damage to nature but has deemed the financial claims excessive. The Archangel Oblast Environment Protection Committee is suing the cosmodrome for 1.2 billion rubles over the detachable stages of launch vehicles that have been falling down for many years near the coastal village of Koyda carrying remains of fuel.

The case was examined by the arbitration court, which agreed with the arguments of representatives of the space industry that the amount of economic damage suffered by the territory should be calculated more thoroughly. It has been decided to have an independent inquiry.

Report on Vympel Missile Design Bureau

LD0205134294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 May 94

[Video report by Aleksandr Onosovskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Vympel design bureau is one of the oldest research centers of the Russian defense industry. It designs missiles of all ranges for combat aircraft. In this type of armament Russia still maintains its superiority—to a large extent thanks to Vympel. For example, not even the U.S. Army has a reverse start missile like our R-73E [AA-11 'Archer' class], which is designed for close-range dogfights. The air-to-air AAM-AE missile [AA-X-12] is equal in quality to its U.S. counterpart, [AIM-120 A] AMRAAM, while costing only half as much. There are missiles capable of hitting targets at a range of hundreds of miles. The list can go on and on.

But like most defense industry enterprises, Vympel finds it hard to work now. Because of a shortage of funds, it is continually forced to reduce long-term research, which gives an impetus to the creation of new types of armament. Yet the acclaimed design bureau still manages to maintain its reputation. The newest missile system was tested recently on the MiG-31M ['Foxhound-B'] aircraft. The Russian president himself congratulated the work force on the success of the experiment. Now Vympel cherishes justifiable hopes for serious support.

New Aircraft Production Company Formed

PM0305090994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

["Own information" report: "'Myasishchev-Avia' Will Become Financial-Industrial Group"]

[Text] Right now in connection with the obviously inadequate nature of the State Defense Order and the lack of budget financing in the aviation industry a situation has taken shape which is fraught with the danger of a drastic reduction in and even the complete stoppage of the development and production of promising types of aircraft, the loss of skilled design and production personnel, and, as a result, the loss of Russia's preeminence in this field.

The Russian Federation Defense Ministry leadership and leading aviation firms are examining the most diverse ways out of the situation which has taken shape. One way could be the attraction of nonbudget funds to finance promising scientific research and experimental design developments, authorized by the government's 9 March 1994 decree. To this end the experimental machine building plant named for Myasishchev, the specialized "Russkoye oruzhiye" corporation, the Smolensk aircraft plant, and the "Aviainvest" joint stock company have concluded an agreement on cooperation and joint activity and the creation of a new corporate body—the "Myasishchev-Avia' closed-type joint-stock company.

The main aims of the "Myasishchev-Avia" joint-stock company will be the development, production, sale, and servicing, both on the domestic and the foreign market, of promising developments of the Myasishchev experimental machine building plant. It is a case of the "Geofizika" high-altitude aircraft designed for optical and radar monitoring of the earth's surface and the monitoring of the environment's ecological situation, the "Gzhel" light multipurpose freight and passenger aircraft (up to 500 kg of payload or up to six passengers), the joint Russian-Indian project for the "Duet" passenger liner for medium-distance routes, the M-112 freight and passenger aircraft, and other programs.

The joint-stock company which is being created is viewed as the prototype for a financial-industrial group in the field of planning, producing, and selling aircraft including on the foreign market. Using both state and nonbudget funds.

In implementing this project the Myasishchev experimental machine building plant will monitor the development of promising competitive models of aircraft, the "Russkoye oruzhiye" specialized corporation will monitor the development of the financial strategy for the development of the "Myasishchev-Avia" joint-stock company, the attraction of nonbudget funds, and marketing, the Smolensk aircraft plant will monitor the production of experimental models of aircraft developed under the leadership of the "Myasishchev-Avia" joint-stock company and their subsequent series production, and the "Aviainvest" joint-stock company will monitor collaboration with the air force and quality control through the institute of military representatives.

Regional Affairs

Parliamentarians Study Relations With PRC

OW0305085794 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Next week's parliamentary hearings are intended to reconcile, as much as possible, the interests of the Far East territories and of the local population with the interests of big politics in Russian-Chinese relations. A group of Federation Council deputies visited Khabarovsk for this purpose. During the visit, the interested sides examined a series of issues concerning Russian-Chinese relations at the regional level.

Sverdlovsk Oblast Promoting 'Regional Self-Government'

PM0305094394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Vadim Khusaynov: "Following Its Own Rules"]

[Text] Yekaterinburg—The first session of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Duma has been held in Yekaterinburg. According to the standing orders, deputies began work by electing a chairman. Eduard Rossel received 18 of the 27 votes.

I would recall that about a year ago Rossel was removed from the post of governor of Sverdlovsk Oblast by Russian presidential edict for attempting to proclaim the Ural Republic. After his removal, his popularity rating rose even higher. The oblast inhabitants elected Rossel deputy to the Russian Federation Council and then deputy to the Oblast Duma. In addition, the heads of administrations of the territories adjoining Sverdlovsk Oblast picked Rossel as president of the Urals Economic Cooperation Association, and the nonpolitical movement "Transformation of the Urals" elected him chairman.

In this way the Urals demonstrated its disagreement with Moscow's edicts and supported the out-of-favor governor. Meanwhile, Eduard Rossel continued to develop the idea of regional self-government along the lines of the U.S. states or the German laender in the belief that it is necessary to abandon the national division of Russia and switch to a territorial division. He put that idea to the deputies in the Oblast Duma. Incidentally, Vladimir Volkov, the second contender for the post of chairman of the Sverdlovsk Duma, also stated in the pre-election debates that the constitution of the Ural Republic should form the basis of Sverdlovsk Oblast's charter.

Now that Eduard Rossel has become chairman of the Duma and the latter is actively supporting the idea of regionalism, we can expect quite an interesting development of events. The Duma is beginning to work on the oblast charter, copying it from the Constitution of the Ural Republic. But whereas the Constitution had to be ratified by a vote of the Russian parliament, the charter is adopted by the Oblast Duma itself. One of the main provisions of the charter is the election of the oblast governor by universal suffrage.

Eduard Rossel makes no secret of his intention of running for this post if elections are held. Bearing in mind Rossel's prestige and his reputation in the oblast, it may be said that he has a very good chance of being returned as governor, unless, of course, the president of Russia bans the elections of governor of Sverdlovsk Oblast, as happened last fall.

Chuvashia Introduces Tax Measures To Improve Production

LD0205213694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by correspondent L. Nikitin, including recorded remarks by I. Mironov, economics minister of the Chuvash Republic of the Russian Federation; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Chuvashia is trying to overcome the economic crisis by relying on its own potential. Our correspondent reports:

[Nikitin] Chuvash Republic President Nikolay Fedorov has signed an edict on additional measures to settle economic relations in the Republic.

[Mironov] We are faced with two main tasks today. First, to help republican goods producers to overcome their difficult situation. The second task is of a more strategic nature; it is to turn the Chuvash Republic into a major business, cultural, economic, and financial center of the Volga region.

[Nikitin] The edict stipulates a lower tax rate applicable to banking. The republican authorities believe that the Chuvash capital of Cheboksary will become one of Russia's major banking centers. Goods producers should already be given assistance in creating investment resources. Privileges are being introduced by the edict with respect to some taxes, including the tax on profits on enterprises engaged in production that are being set up in the republic. They are exempt from this tax for three years, which is quite a sufficient period for an enterprise to establish itself and start production. After this, the enterprise can fulfill its obligations to society and start paying taxes. Thus, mutual interests will be satisfied.

Maritime Kray Leader Concerned Over Electricity Rate Hike

OW0205194494 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0210 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Lunch Hour Break" program]

[Text] A few days ago the people of Maritime Kray were literally shocked by the prices for electricity proposed by the central government. As Natalya Vstovskaya, press secretary of the kray administration head, reported before the beginning of the program, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko took part in a meeting of the Federal Assembly while in Moscow and signed the Agreement on Civic Accord in Russia. I am prepared to welcome any chance aimed at stabilizing our

society and establishing peace and order, he said over the telephone. However, the governor expressed deep concern over the situation in connection with the increase in prices on electricity.

As you know, according to the 22 April decree, the government is rescinding preferential rates for Maritime Kray set down in decree No. 1001. This document was not coordinated with Maritime Kray, and I am categorically opposed to such measures, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko declared. The head of the administration has departed for Vladivostok to deal with urgent kray issues. Immediately on arrival he plans to visit the agricultural fair and fish market being held today.

As was reported earlier, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko was invited to the United States for the presentation of the president's book. However, he declined the offer. During an audience with Yeltsin in Moscow in connection with the publication of the book, I explained the necessity for my return to the kray, and I think I was understood, the head of the kray administration said.

Vyatka River Shipping Season Resumes; Workload Way Down

PM0205165794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Shipping Season on River"]

[Text] The first ships traveled down the Vyatka River 28 April, starting timber logging. Shipment of grain and construction materials is next in line.

In the whole shipping season, the crews of the Vyatka River Steamship Company have to ship around 2 million tonnes of freight. That is considerably less than in past years. Customers' inability to pay has robbed the enterprise of a chance of procuring the full amount of fuel. Some of the fleet will therefore be standing idle. However, passenger lines will open in time as planned and in a day or two the first motor ships will set out.

Moscow Buses To Be Produced by Joint Venture With FRG Firm

PM0205163394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Passengers Moving from 'Ikarusz' to German 'Neoplan'"]

[Text] A comfortable and maneuverable 15-meter city bus with three wide doors and a passenger capacity of 150 will be a new sight on the capital's roads next year. It will be produced under license from the well-known German firm of "Neoplan."

The decision to set up a joint venture in conjunction with the "Avtobus-ZIL" closed-type, joint-stock company was made 28 April by the Moscow City Government. Fifty-one percent of its shares will be held by the "ZIL" Moscow Automobile Company, with the rest being held by the Moscow Committee for the Management of State Property. There is very high demand for a Russian-made vehicle of this type. Moscow alone will require no less than 1,000 a year. The city's bus fleets are currently short 2,400-2,500 vehicles.

The Hungarian "Ikarusz," which currently have to be bought for foreign exchange, are obsolete and leave us dependent on shipments of spares from abroad. Moreover, Moscow's motor industry enterprises have found themselves in a difficult financial and economic position, and the city authorities took this into account in deciding to support the "ZIL," not with preferential hand-outs or tax breaks, but with a major long-term production program.

As Yu. Luzhkov reported at the session, "ZIL" specialists made their choice of the basic model suitable for our conditions after looking at examples from around the world—from France to Japan. The German firm's proposal was the most acceptable in terms of its technical characteristics as well as from the standpoint of foreign exchange expenditure. The "Neoplan" license plus the purchase of components to produce the first batch of 150 buses in 1994-95 will cost 49.51 million German marks. Off-site "ZIL" teams will begin assembling the vehicles at the firm's plant in Pilsting (Bavaria), from where they will be dispatched to Moscow.

Components and parts production will gradually move to "ZIL" shops, and it is ultimately planned to supply the engines from the Bashkir city of Ishimbay. Assembly of the new vehicles, V. Saykin, first deputy general director of the "ZIL" Moscow Automobile Company, said, will be launched in the modernized wing of one of the capital's unused motor vehicle pools. The motor vehicle plant intends to develop a whole family of passenger vehicles based on the "Neoplan."

International Affairs

Article Urges Military Ties With Kazakhstan

AU0205111094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Apr 94 p 14

[Article by Dmytro Shkurko, senior officer at Ukraine's Ministry of Defense Press Service: "Ukraine's Military Policy: Oriental Motifs"]

[Text] There is something odd about the vector of public opinion in our state. Whereas attempts by Ukraine's Ministry of Defense to establish contacts with Western partners invariably meet with support and even understanding, any movement from that department in an easterly direction gives rise to mistrust and even protests. Just recall the widespread condemnation of the meeting of ministers of defense of the CIS countries in Ashgabat. At that time, an extremely broad range of emphatic accusations were voiced, starting with admonitions for the allegedly servile position assumed by Ukraine's Ministry of Defense and ending with "exposures" of the secret intentions of "hostile forces" to join the Collective Security Treaty. However, realities are such that the East is by no means less important for Ukraine, than the West. Even from the point of view of this circumstance alone, the recent visit by our military delegation to Almaty and Tashkent could not fail to give rise to intense public interest.

Its leader, Ukraine's deputy minister of defense Colonel General Ivan Oliynyk repeatedly stressed that Ukraine is building relations with its partners on the principles of mutual respect, trust, and mutual advantage. This determined the readiness to discuss all the apparently most acute issues.

Both Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are interested in regaining, as fast as possible, the technology and armaments of their national armies (as of 1992) that are presently stored at Ukraine's repairs enterprises. The Ukrainian side confirmed its readiness to immediately return that technology to the clients, taking into account the cost of the operations performed on them. Right at the negotiating table, an order was issued to prepare military convoys for shipment; even the procedure for arming the guards who would accompany them was discussed. As a result, trains with repaired military technology will soon set off eastward.

The Ukrainian side not only expressed its readiness to provide its own repairs base for the services of Kazakhstan's and Uzbekistan's military departments, but also to improve those that they have. Research institutes in these countries have been invited to take part in elaborating an intensive modernization of military technology.

For its part, Ukraine is interested in repairing military transport aviation aircraft at Uzbekistan's enterprises and in using the Baykonur space-vehicle launching site and Kazakhstan's unique testing areas for implementing our scientific research programs.

Incidentally, the subject of space missiles was a major topic at the negotiations in both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Each one of these countries has its matchless missile technology and scientific research basis. Cooperation in this sphere will be extremely useful and advantageous for all sides taking part in the negotiations.

In both Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the sides reached an understanding of the fact that large-scale relationships between the military departments must be reinforced by bilateral agreements on military cooperation at the level of heads of state. Draft agreements are already in the process of elaboration. If such documents are signed, this will open up wide prospects for the interaction between Ukraine, on the one hand, and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, on the other, in the military technological sphere.

It is worth recalling that a very telling phrase has been included in the communique on the results of the negotiations and in the protocols that have been signed: "...bilateral contacts are in conformity with the international agreement of obligations of the sides and ... do not restrict the interests of any of the third countries."

Both right after the disintegration of the Union and in the years that followed, it was difficult to picture a state that would come out in favor of integration within the framework of the CIS more consistently than Kazakhstan. However, today, even there, people seem to realize that the role of the leader in the tight pack "Russia—the rest of the CIS countries" may result in more of a headache than mutual advantage.

For example, no sooner did Kazakhstan raise the question of fair principles in withdrawing nuclear weapons from its territory, than Russia immediately responded by launching its propaganda campaign, which has already been tested in Ukraine, to the effect that "Kazakhstan's nuclear facilities are in a critical state." The result was directly opposite to that expected. According to chief of General Staff of Kazakhstan's Armed Forces Major General Alibek Kasymov, today, the removal of nuclear munitions from Kazakhstan has been halted, with the exception of those whose service life has expired or that have serious defects.

It might seem that Kazakhstan's right to exercise control over the Baykonur space-vehicle launching site, situated on its territory, is beyond doubt. The initial attempts to exercise this right resulted in a sharp reaction on the part of Moscow: We, they said, will adapt the Plesetsk space-vehicle launching site for our own purposes and, after we withdraw, Baykonur will fall apart on its own. Just like that!

Uzbekistan is encountering similar problems—although at a different level. The disintegration of the centralized system of management has painfully affected everything, starting from replenishing the weapons arsenal and ending with logistic support. Despite the requests of assistance in most elementary issues, yesterday's "big brother" remains unmoved.

A paradoxical situation is taking shape in which Russia's excessive striving for leadership and the related arrogance discredits the Collective Security Treaty and turns it into fiction, although Russia itself is one of its most active proponents.

Against this background, mutually advantageous bilateral military cooperation between countries of the CIS may be much more productive and intensive than within the framework of a collective treaty. There are no contradictions here. First, potential customers and real producers can do away with the services of the great go-between in relations between one other. For example, systems of weapons manufactured in Kazakhstan may be sent directly to Ukrainian depots, bypassing the "book-keeping" of Russian military-industrial structures, and so on. This itself promises considerable savings of funds. Second, bilateral cooperation will raise the potential of every state manifold. For example, not a single one of them, including Russia, is capable of maintaining such a facility as Baykonur on its own. However, this particular space-vehicle launching site may be efficiently used and serviced with the help of joint bi- or multilateral space-missile programs. Third, the system of relations on the bilateral basis rules out the creation of military alliances and, as a result, the very possibility of confrontation. In our specific case, a step has been made toward a kind of "partnership for peace" on the territory of the former USSR. Finally, fourth, the more actively the states use one another's industrial base, the less dependent they will be upon the former center. However, strange this might sound, this will be a guarantee of the irreversibility of democratic transformations in Russia itself. The sooner Russia rids itself of the illusions on the "spheres of influence," the sooner it will emerge at the level of normal partnership relations with other CIS countries, which, incidentally, at present, only demand equality and respect for themselves.

The recent visit by Ukraine's military delegation to Almaty and Tashkent is one of the first signs of the fundamentally new approach toward mutually advantageous cooperation between Ukraine and CIS countries. However, as is known, spring inevitably follows the arrival of the first swallow....

Germany To Assist in Re-Equipping Nuclear Power Station

AU0205171394 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Germany Will Supply Equipment as Aid to the Rivne Nuclear Power Station"]

[Text] By the end of 1995, the Rivne Nuclear Power Station will receive equipment worth 21 million German marks from Germany. This was agreed upon during a meeting at the nuclear facility between representatives of the Society for the Safety of Nuclear Reactors and of the German firms "Siemens," "ABB," and "Lloyd."

Following the interstate agreement, the German side will provide equipment for the periodic inspection of metals and diagnostics, telecommunications equipment, and fireproof materials. This will make it possible to modernize the functioning power unit with its output of 1 million kilowatt/hours. Assembly operations will be carried out by Rivne nuclear specialists with the help of specialists from various German companies assigned by the Society for the Safety of Nuclear Reactors, taking into account their experience in organizing and implementing measures to increase nuclear safety.

National Affairs

U.S. Officials Arrive for Economic Talks

WS0205144294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] A U.S. economic delegation arrived in Kiev today. The delegation includes representatives of the U.S. State Department, corporate circles, banking institutions, and legal experts. The visitors wish to acquaint themselves with the progress of market reforms in Ukraine, which will help them pinpoint the main directions of U.S. aid to our country. The visit's agenda includes meetings with the Ukrainian president's administration and other high-ranking officials. Also planned are negotiations with the leadership of the National Bank and the Association of Ukrainian Commercial Banks. On 5 May, the delegation members are going to organize a round-table meeting with prominent Ukrainian economists.

CSCE Envoy for National Minorities Arrives

WS0305091894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Max van der Stoel, CSCE supreme emissary for national minority issues, began a visit to Ukraine today. It is expected that he will hold meetings with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyy, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, National Minorities and Emigration Minister Oleksandr Yemets, and other officials and public figures. The CSCE supreme emissary is scheduled to visit Donetsk Oblast and the Crimean Republic.

Kazakhstan

Almaty Mayor Criticizes Government Over Fuel Shortage

LD0205114994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1053 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Ignatov]

[Text] Almaty, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—The Almaty city committee for emergencies announced an emergency situation in the capital of Kazakhstan from today. Due to the sharp restriction in the supply of fuels to the Almatyneftеprodukt association and the Munayavtomatizatsiya joint-stock association, the dispatch of fuel to all enterprises and organizations, apart from those directly providing the city's vital facilities, is to be prohibited until special instruction. Tough restrictions on the supply of electricity to consumers have been introduced. In certain districts of the city, the temperature of hot water has been reduced to 40 degrees Celcius.

Speaking on republician television, the city's mayor Zamanbek Nurkadilov said that neither the prime minister nor his deputy wishes to discuss the present situation with him. "If the prime minister does not want to meet the city's head," Nurkadilov said, "and if other high-ranking officials also ignore the city's problems, then the natural question arises: Whyt do we need such a government?"

The mayor expressed hope that the leadership of those regions which supply the capital of Kazakhstan with coal, petroleum products, and gas will not remain indifferent to the emergency situation that has been introduced.

Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia To Establish Diplomatic Relations

LD0205164094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia from 29 April to 2 May. He was received by His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. The foreign minister gave President Nazarbayev's personal letter to the king. The king expressed sincere gratitude and asked Saudabayev to convey his respect to the Kazakh leader. The king highly assessed Nazarbayev's efforts to reform society and the economy, to preserve peace and stability in Central Asia, and to strengthen security in the region. The king invited Nazarbayev to pay an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

Kanat Saudabayev met Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. They discussed broadening bilateral relations and other regional and international issues of mutual interest. Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia expressed their readiness to develop political, economic, and other relations. [passage omitted] The ministers signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations at embassy level, and they intend to take appropriate measures to develop friendly cooperation. Thus, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud will pay a return visit to Almaty shortly. Saudabayev also met the Saudi oil, trade, and planning ministers and the head of the development fund and discussed future economic and trade cooperation. The two countries agreed to exchanged trade delegations in the near future.

Bankers Attempt To Restore Order in Banking System

LD0205155394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The National Bank of Kazakhstan held a news conference devoted to the financial and credit situation in the Republic. National Bank Chairman Daulet Sembayev and his deputies answered numerous questions and said that "the banking system has not yet been properly formed in our state." Founders of commercial banks pursued only one aim—to ensure themselves with credits—and did not take into consideration the needs of their customers. In addition, they were short of money and qualified personnel. The possibilities of such banks were reduced to a minimum due to granting unjustified or wrongly documented soft loans. A great deal of work is currently being done in localities in order to increase the authorized funds of loan granting banks and to reduce the interference of local administrations in these banks' work. The board of the National Bank came to a logically based conclusion: Decisions on granting soft loans should be made primarily by the government and banks, to this effect, should be given additional money. The board of the National Bank will hold news conferences regularly. This will enable the population to make an informed choice and to participate in various financial events and not to fall prey to dubious deals. The number of other transgressions will also decrease.

Kyrgyzstan

Central Asian Leaders Agree Summit Talks Needed

LD0205153594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0953 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov, Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty, 2 May—Central Asia should become a single and effectively functioning economic space. This was the conclusion reached by Nursultan Nazarbayev, Askar Akayev, and Islam Karimov, the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, at their meeting on 29-30 April on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul that was proposed by the Kyrgyz leader, the KazTAG news agency reported today.

Trilateral summit meetings of this kind have become a regular event. They had been held in Kazakhstan previously—in the locality of Ordabasy in south Kazakhstan Oblast and also in Kokshetau.

The main outcome of the present meeting was Kyrgyzstan's joining the treaty on the creation of a single economic space between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The treaty has now become trilateral.

The presidents discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on the current situation in Central Asia and the CIS, as well as on a range of international problems.

The presidents pointed out the positive trend toward deepening economic links in the region and in the CIS as a whole. They especially noted the importance of working out a mechanism for implementing the treaty between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan on the creation of a single economic space, which represents a new level of integration for the economies of Central Asian states at a time when obstacles to economic interaction such as customs barriers and double taxation continue to be removed, while at the same time currency exchange points are opening.

The sides noted that the document is fully in accordance with the provisions of the treaty on the creation of an economic union between Commonwealth countries and is open for joining by all the states of the Commonwealth.

The need to heighten the role of institutions integrating the economic, cultural, and information space both within the CIS and within Central Asia demands that dialogue at the summit level be stepped up, the presidents said. Similar problems in the economic and political spheres and traditional production and social links create real preconditions for developing closer cooperation, for significantly reducing the expenses of the transitional period, and for relieving the difficulties brought about by the process of forming a market economy.

They believe a number of political problems are also common to the whole region. The potential for the peaceful and effective cohabitation of different ethnic groups in Central Asia should help to stabilize the ethno-regional situation.

Within the framework of the decision by Commonwealth heads of state to render urgent aid to Kyrgyzstan, the leaders of the three countries discussed specific measures for eliminating the damage that the elements have inflicted on the Republic's economy.

Expressing satisfaction with the results of the meeting, the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan stressed that the constructive and fruitful talks that had taken place would serve "to further develop and strengthen the historic friendship, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the peoples of our fraternal countries."

Shumeyko on Russia's Interest in C. Asia, Caucasus

LD0305094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0900 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by KYRGYZKABAR-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek 3 May TASS—"Russia's main interest in Central Asia and in Transcaucasia is peace," speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament Vladimir Shumeyko told a press conference here on Monday [2 May] after the signing of an agreement on interparliamentary cooperation between Russia and Kyrgyzstan. Russian troops in the Caucasian conflict zone serve only as a disengagement buffer between the conflicting sides. In Shumeyko's opinion, any "war between two CIS nations is an obstacle to the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole."

Speaker of the Kyrgyz parliament Medetkan Sherimkulov added: "We cannot leave Russia to deal with the Karabakh problem alone. We must prevent it from being accused of imperial designs when it tries to restore peace in this area by its own means. Of course, we are aware of Russia's interest in the republics of the former Soviet Union. But today Russia can rely not only on its own forces. Its efforts are now correctly assessed in all the states of our commonwealth."

Asked about the plans for achieving peace, Shumeyko said: "The MPS are unanimous that the problem should be solved as a single whole." Shumeyko indicated three settlement stages: complete end of hostilities, withdrawal of all the troops from the conflict zone, and conclusion of a peace treaty. "The status of Nagorno-Karabakh can be determined only after that," he stated.

Shumeiko, together with his counterpart Medetkan Sherimkulov, flew to the southern part of the republic today to visit districts hit by a recent natural calamity.

Tajikistan

Investigation Begun Into Uzbek Plane Seizure

LD0205140994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordiyenko]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—A special commission has started an investigation into yesterday's incident at airport at Khorog (the administrative center of Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous oblast), in which armed opposition fighters seized a military aircraft from Uzbekistan. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today over the telephone by informed sources in Tajikistan's Government circles that because of conflicting reports from Khorog it is impossible to confirm or refute the definition of the incident as a "seizure" of the cargo delivered by the AN-26 aircraft from Uzbekistan to Khorog pending completion of the commission's work.

Meanwhile, as was reported earlier, Uzbekistan's Defense Ministry confirmed yesterday that the cargo described as "humanitarian aid" had indeed been prepared for delivery to Gorno-Badakhshan. But for unknown reasons the relevant bodies in Tajikistan were not informed beforehand about the time when the state border would be crossed. The aircraft landed at 1500 local time at the Khorog airport. After the landing the runway and the approaches to the airport were cordoned off by fighters from a detachment of "Tajik Self-Defense Forces." The cargo on board was taken away. In view of this, military sources in Dushanbe do not

rule out the possibility that contacts have been established between certain forces in Uzbekistan and fighters in the Pamir mountains, and that these contacts have some bearing on the situation in the region.

Commission Claims Plane Not Seized by Opposition

LD0205145294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordenko]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May (ITAR-TASS)—According to the preliminary results produced by the commission investigating yesterday's report about the Uzbek plane in Khorog airport, it was not seized by armed Tajik opposition forces. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told over the phone today by sources in well- informed government circles in the Republic that the special commission has established that the plane was on a scheduled flight for the joint peace-keeping forces and was carrying humanitarian aid.

The same source said the commission established that, contrary to the reports coming in, the plane was not seized and there were no armed people from the Tajik opposition at the airport. The same source said that, because of Khorog's location and the situation in the region, all planes coming into the airport are regarded from the standpoint of security. As for the AN-26 plane which was apparently seized, it left Khorog at 1627 and no problems were registered. Two other planes in addition to the AN-26 landed at Khorog airport from Dushanbe on that day.

Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in a telephone interview that an official statement would be made tomorrow about the results of the investigation into this episode.

Security Spokesman Explains Plane's Humanitarian Role

LD0305105194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 May—Tajikistan's secret services have given their version of the incident concerning the landing of an Uzbek aircraft at the airport in the town of Khorog (administrative center of autonomous Gorno-Badakhshan in Tajikistan) on 1 May.

According to a statement by Colonel Farkhod Sharipov, head of the public relations center of Tajikistan's Ministry of Security, which he made to Russian journalists today, the landing by the Uzbek plane, which belongs to the borderguards in this Central Asian republic, did take place. However, the flight was being made by prior consent between the governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to deliver humanitarian freight to the population of the Pamirs.

This freight, Farkhod Sharipov stressed, was mainly children's clothing and was received by official representatives of the administration of Gorno-Badakhshan. Reports put out by some of the media saying that the flight was carrying military uniforms for local guerrillas and that local Pamir self-defense units were blocking approaches to the airport and the airport itself at the time the freight was unloaded have not been confirmed.

UN Observer: Recent Murders May Not Have Political Motive

LD0205152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The head of a U.N. team of observers in Tajikistan said that last month's group murders in the Central Asian Republic (eight people being killed in Hissar District, five in Dzhirgatal District and four in Tajikabad District) may not have been politically motivated.

Liviu Bota, in an interview with INTERFAX, said it is the economic situation in Tajikistan that accounts for the high crime rate there.

However, "although many of the latest events of that kind have no political motives behind them, they may grow into political confrontations," he said.

Liviu said crime is a serious problem throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States, and "Tajikistan is no exception." But in Tajikistan "this is taking place against the background of a political confrontation and may have undesirable consequences," he said.

"The United Nations and states friendly to Tajikistan will be doing their best to achieve reconciliation in the Republic and to make sure that goodwill intentions stated at the first round of Tajik talks (negotiations between Tajikistan's government and opposition) in Moscow at the beginning of April develop into effective measures," Bota said.

He said the international community approved of the present rapprochement between the conflicting parties in Tajikistan, which was clear from some countries' declared readiness to increase their humanitarian aid to the republic.

Bota said the conflict would take time to resolve, but expressed satisfaction that "the parties have realized that the problem cannot be solved by force."

He said preparations were underway for a second round of talks, where many questions taken up at the first round would be addressed more closely.

Asked whether the adoption of a new constitution, a draft of which is currently under discussion in Tajikistan, would be premature now, Bota said, "Since (today) a Soviet-era constitution is in effect in the republic today, a new one, whatever it is, would be a step forward." But he said there was no reason to hurry up with the adoption of the document. "It would be better to provide conditions for all Tajiks to take part in the [discussion] process," he said.

Russian Guards Prevent 'Armed Provocations' on Afghan Border

LD0305073594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 3 May TASS—Russian borderguards have prevented one more armed provocation on the Pamir stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border.

ITAR-TASS today learned at the headquarters of the Russian borderguard troops in Tajikistan that a group of armed men from the Tajik opposition made a attempt on Monday evening to fight their way into Tajikistan on one of the sectors guarded by the Horog borderguard detachment.

The intruders enjoyed fire coverage from Afghan territory. The Russian borderguards were compelled to retaliate, thereby preventing the gang from crossing the border river. The Russian troops suffered no casualties. The enemy losses were not reported.

Men of the irreconcilable opposition are now being massed on separate sections of the border between Tajikistan and the Afghan province of Tahor. Military sources do not rule out new armed provocations on this stretch of the border.

Border Guard Killed on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD0305094694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 3 May 94

[Excerpt] A Russian border guard died on 2 May when the (Navranga) border post in the sector under the 12th Moscow border detachment on the Tajik-Afghan border was fired on.

According to a report from the press office of Russia's borderguards, the serviceman received fatal wounds and died on the way to hospital. It is thought that a sniper was firing on the borderguards. However, the precise location of his position was not found. [passage omitted]

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Defends Record of Stability

PM0205152794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[ITAR-TASS Correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya report "exclusively for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA" on interview with Turkmenistan President Niyazov: "Saparmurad Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan: My Program is Ten Years of Stability"]

[Text] At the end of April a large group of Moscow newspaper chief editors went to Turkmenistan at the invitation of President Saparmurad Niyazov.

To be fair to Saparmurad Turkmenbas, there wasn't a single question which gave him cause for self-justification or self-congratulation. The only quality which he did permit himself was to be frank and to detailed. It is no coincidence that he frequently talked about the Niyazov of old—the communist who sincerely believed in the party's ideals and then believed in Gorbachev and perestroyka.

What has changed his attitude toward the things that he held sacred? Where is that dividing line between his past and present? How did this happen and how quickly was it achieved? Why is Turkmenistan, which was the last to leave the USSR and which, incidentally, made no efforts to rock it, now rejecting the very idea of any superstructure—be it political, economic, or humanitarian? Furthermore, Turkmenistan has been putting forward initiatives to which others have been affiliating. Whereas the Ashgabat meeting of CIS heads of state determined the consultative nature of the Commonwealth and its voluntary strategy, the recent Moscow meeting was a reflection of the practical approach, as observers could not fail to notice. In any event the new consultative structure—an economic commission in place of the proposed suprastate committee—was proposed by Turkmenistan and all the other members of the economic union voted for it.

So what kind of country is Turkmenistan—visited by Le Pen and Mitterrand, a magnet for where Western investors, where the Constitution proclaims a secular democratic system, where there are portraits of the president wherever you go, and where his picture appears on the currency? There are questions to be answered there.

There are answers, too. But how would you like us to develop? Yesterday it was "with Lenin in mind," but today: What? Nature abhors a vacuum. Way back, we drove out religion; then we exalted communism; and now we want democracy. And where do we want it—in the East?

Yes, the president agrees. "The East is a subtle thing." He recalled how in India he was presented with a figure of a smiling man. Turn it round and you are holding a saber in your hand...

But to return to the Politburo.... Gorbachev himself admitted that there were people there who would embrace you and at the same time, perhaps, wanted to strangle you....

Now try to guess which place is more enigmatic, the East or the West? And in what way? People are people everywhere and, as we know, there are no bad peoples. There are unfortunate people. Take the Turkmens: They used to produce vast amounts of oil and gas, but still could not "force" a school out of the USSR State Planning Committee without being subjected to insults. There is still no drinking water in the west of the Republic, where they are presently holding the fourth international tender to prospect for hydrocarbons (the country is fourth in the world).

So what does this mean—are we to go back under one roof again, the president asked himself? We do not deny the merits of the system, he said, which ensured us universal education and gave us access to Russian culture and the cultures of other peoples. We do not deny the obvious, he said, and that means first and foremost the indissoluble spiritual link between our peoples. But we are opposed to everything that is artificial because we have seen from our experience that it cannot exist on living soil where real people live.

How does the "life" of the portraits tally with that claim? Do not bother to look for a hidden oriental meaning in this, Niyazov said. If a colossus such as Lenin has been toppled, the time will come when I, a mere mortal, will also be cast down. What private property owner am I foisting my portrait on? What factory owner am I forcing to name his factory after me? He would laugh, and that would be that. Furthermore, Niyazov, in his own words, is not foisting anything on anybody right now. He tried to ban the celebration of his birthday, but the Assembly unanimously turned down his request. Niyazov, who in eight years has not arrested a single dissident and who has not used the least force against anyone, reasonably reserves to himself the right to not to ban anything, including his own portrait. However, he does not hide the fact that he sees some point in creating the image of a national leader, whoever it may be. "Until they acquire peace and material sufficiency, the people must believe in someone and something. Otherwise there will be chaos." That is the Turkmen president's main creed, which he used as the basis of his main program "Ten Years of Stability."

A transitional period and a popular consciousness unprepared for the market are the alpha and omega of his political activity. If you bear in mind the kind of political cocktail that this consciousness entails in the post-communist East, it is not hard to understand Niyazov's logic: Like a pharmacist, he is forced to weigh all the moods in society in his political scales.

"Do you think that everything has gone smoothly here?" he asked his guests. "Not at all. Ashgabat and Nebitdag have experienced their first-ever interethnic pogroms. The intelligentsia held rallies to defend the exclusive right of the national language."

A transition from social to private ownership or vice versa is, of course, very difficult. That is why the transitional period is so important. In Turkmenistan this means a phased transition to different forms of ownership, the privatization of enterprises—the small ones first, and then the large ones—and the flotation of leading sectors of the economy.

But an outlet into the world market was needed for gas products—the main national product, and one has been found. At the moment it is still at the planning stage, admittedly, but these are very important plans. One gas pipeline will go via Iran and Turkey to Europe, another via China to Japan. The East and Asia will be linked by a transcontinental railroad through Turkmenistan. It is already being built, and quite quickly, too.

However, everything takes time. "We are not crowing about our successes," the president said. "We are proud of our stability and of the bridges that we have built with the people through the provision of free gas, water, and electricity, and of our consistent social policy. As for everything else, matters are not going very well here—which is true of everyone. So that we are no better than anyone else."

As for the feature, which distinguishes him from the rest, he says that it is the fact that he has been working with his team since day one of the proclamation of independence. Indeed, Niyazov has replaced virtually no one in that time because he believes that, first, you do not changes horses in midstream and second, change for change's sake is absurd. Here, too, he is frank, and asserts that when you cannot emerge from the womb of socialism and become a marketeer overnight. For that you need property, and that is true even of a high-ranking official.

"You want people to criticize me," he told the journalists. "But you try to make them do that when everyone is still afraid for his own job—a fear dating back to the times of 'communism'—and is thus afraid for the future of his family and children too."

But why criticize without genuine cause? There are arguments within Niyazov's cabinet, but no one has any intention of airing them in the press. That would be ridiculous.

Judging by how attentively the journalists listened and the way that their facial expressions changed, you could tell that Saparmurad Niyazov's words had an effect on them.

In any event the Moscow visitors were convinced that Turkmenistan is indeed going its own road, that peace reigns here, and that this is the most valuable thing of all....

Uzbekistan

Flooding Threatens Valley With Radiation Pollution

LD0205212694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1337 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Maya Ganiyeva, our correspondent in Uzbekistan, once again in her reportage returns to the program's theme of spring floods, but the report is much more alarming than those from Nizhniy Novgorod and Rostov-on-Don. The fact is that, specifically because of heavy flooding, the threat of radioactive pollution hangs over the heavily populated Fergana Valley of Uzbekistan. Let us hear from Maya Ganiyeva:

[Ganiyeva] I am bringing you this report from the shores of the mountain river Mayli-Say. The town with the same name in Kyrgyzstan is situated not far from here. It was founded in the 1930's following the discovery of uranium ores. Its processing capacities—an enrichment factory and a hydrometallurgical works—were soon built. In 1968, when all supplies were exhausted, they were simply destroyed. Traces remained, however, just as the burial grounds of radioactive materials also remained. What is interesting is that there is radioactive waste in the ground from everywhere, even from Czechoslovakia.

Following the mudslides, heavy rain, and landslides, there was a real danger of poisonous substances finding their way into the river. It is swollen to an incredible size here. At any moment, the water sweeping all around may also wash away the radioactive tombs. There below is the Fergana Valley. The most alarming thing is that this whole area, the Syr Darya River that runs through it, and large regions of Central Asia may become polluted. That is why the Governments of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and the public

have sounded the alarm. Even now a government commission has been set up, and there has been rapid strengthening of the banks. Hydrological facilities that may absorb the waters are being planned.

I flew in here with a special international group headed by Ecosan, the Uzbekistan ecology and health fund. The Ecosan international fund has brought aid—medical supplies and disposable syringes—to those hit by the landslides.

My companion is Yusuf Shedemetov, president of the Ecosan international fund. Yusuf Shedemetovich, what is being done to avert a disaster?

[Shedemetov] The main task is to bring it to the attention of the world community, the leaders of the Central Asian states, and the governments of this region—all governments. In addition, it is also necessary to ask the Russian Federation for help. Many specialists and many leaders of the ministry of that time worked in this region. They left a lot of traces. Also, our research here shows that there is still a lack of technical documentation that would be very useful today for deeper scientific research. That is why the Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation and many ministries, departments, and state committees could render practical aid.

[Ganiyeva] Yes, it would be a very great mistake if these blossoming pistachio and apricot orchards were turned into a mini-Chernobyl. One would like to hope that the efforts of ecologists and the public will not be wasted and that the valley will be preserved for life.

Armenia

Implications of Cease-Fire Assessed

944K1152A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Armen Khanbabayan: "A Light Has Appeared at the End of the Tunnel"]

[Text] In negotiations in Moscow the speaker of the Azerbaijan parliament, R. Gulnev, announced to the minister of defense of Russia, P. Grachev: "Azerbaijan is prepared to cease-fire on the night of 28 April if Armenia will follow its example." The leader of the Russian war department promised to notify Yerevan of Baku's decision immediately, adding that "I am convinced that the answer will be affirmative." Commenting on this information, the radio station Mayak noted that, judging from everything, Azerbaijan is prepared to join the Russian peace initiative, which, as we know, "envisions the release of all seized Azerbaijani territory and the return of the Karabakh formations to within the confines of Nagorno Karabakh itself. Along with them, Russian separation subdivisions will be brought into these regions."

If all this is true, it would be difficult to overestimate what has occurred. G. Aliyev's stubborn unwillingness to give his consent to the introduction of Russian peace keepers into Azerbaijan has finally been broken. And this happened because of two circumstances. Armenia's latest successes in defending the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the southeastern section of resistance created a very real threat both to Gyandzha and the Yevlakh transportation and energy center. Practically all of the right bank of the Kura ended up extremely vulnerable in military terms. Further success of the Karabakh Army in these areas would mean unconditional defeat for Azerbaijan. Obviously, this scenario inevitably involves serious domestic political collisions with an easily predictable result: New, pro-Russian leaders will take over power in Baku. There is no doubt that, for example, this was understood in Ankara, which explains the advice from Hikmet Cetin to the Azerbaijan leader to accept the Russian peace plan. Seeing that the war was lost de facto and his closest ally was washing his hands of it, G. Aliyev probably decided to try to save what still might be saved—his power.

Time will tell whether he will succeed in the end; only the winners will not be judged, and the losers always will be. One thing is clear today: Russia will gain one more (after Abkhazia) large military-political victory in the Transcaucasus. And again—with no effort on its part—but that is not the main thing. The main thing is that it is above all our common Armenian victory—military and political and diplomatic and moral.

But is it not too soon to speak about that? After all anything could happen, and even Russia's position, as we know, can very quickly undergo remarkable metamorphoses.

Still one wants to hope that today will be the turning point in the situation. There will undoubtedly be new, quite justified misgivings and concerns related to the fact that the people of Karabakh will apparently have to gradually begin to deploy troops closer to their borders, but there is also the hope for peace, the hope for termination of the blockade, that during the course of very lengthy and complicated negotiations the diplomats will find a new status for Karabakh, which will be acceptable primarily to the people of Karabakh themselves.

There is no doubt that the process of transition from a state of war to a state of peace will be long, hard, and fraught with numerous complications, snags, and various kinds of surprises. We must be prepared for this. Ultimately we were able to prove to ourselves and to the entire world that we are worth something as a nation, that force, and war, and a blockade could not break us and could not provoke us to internecine strife. Therefore, the time will definitely come when the crown of thorns on the head of the people will be replaced by a wreath of laurels.

In the cruel winter cold, under conditions of the large-scale Azerbaijan offensives in Karabakh, when there was no light in the homes for weeks and the front was caving in and it seemed that defeat was around the corner, the president of the Republic firmly, confidently, and solemnly promised: This year we will start up the nuclear power plant, we will adopt a constitution suitable for a free, democratic country, and we will achieve peace with dignity. Did many of our compatriots at that time believe our president without reservations?

Nagorno-Karabakh Statement on Cease-Fire

944K1157A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Message "To the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, P. Grachev, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, A. Kozyrev, and V. Kazimirov" published under the rubric "Artsakh": "The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Is Prepared To Provide for Complete Cease-Fire"]

[Text] The leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, having accepted the proposal of the Russian Federation and confirming their readiness for peaceful regulation of the armed conflict between the Armenian Republic and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, agree to provide for a complete cease-fire and to end combat activities as of 0001 hours on 29 April 1994 in keeping with the Protocol of 18 February 1994.

Taking into account the absence of observers and the mutual mistrust of the opposing sides and striving to preclude possible attempts to take advantage of the temporary respite to prepare for another large-scale attack and thus, contribute to the irreversibility of the peace process, the leadership of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic considers it necessary to set in motion the entire mechanism of the aforementioned Protocol signed by the parties to the conflict with the participation of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

Only the realization of this complex of envisioned military-technical measures can guarantee stable termination of

combat activities and create favorable conditions for solving the political programs.

The leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic are prepared to issue the corresponding orders after the intermediary confirms the receipt of the identical document from the opposing side.

[Signed] Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic A. Gukasyan

[Signed] Commander of the Army for Defense of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic S. Babayan

Stepanakert, 28 April 1994

Ter-Petrosyan, Nagorno-Karabakh Leaders Meet in Goris

LD0205182594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] In Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], a meeting of the working groups of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS on problems of a settlement of the Karabakh conflict begins today. Speakers of the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia and representatives of Nagornyy Karabakh have begun arriving in Bishkek. Our commentator on the situation on the eve of the meeting:

[Correspondent A. Ivanova] The Armenian leadership headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan held consultations today in the town of Goris with the leadership of Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. The details of the conversation are not being disclosed. According to unofficial information, the sides discussed the approach to a settlement of the Karabakh conflict in connection with the meeting planned for 3 May in Bishkek of heads of parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, with the participation of representatives of Nagornyy Karabakh.

The initiator of the meeting was the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, which has noticeably stepped up its peacemaking activity in the zone of the Karabakh conflict.

Vladimir Shumeyko, who arrived in Bishkek today, stated that the talks provide an opportunity to reach agreement on the question of a settlement of the Karabakh conflict. He considers the main justification for this to be the fact that Azerbaijan recognized Nagornyy Karabakh recently as one of the participants of this conflict. Shumeyko called this a very big leap forward in the process of the talks on Karabakh.

CSCE Delegation Holds Talks in Yerevan, Leaves

NC0205180194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The CSCE Minsk Group delegation lead by Ambassador Mathias Mosberg returned to Yerevan from Stepanakert in the evening of 1 May.

The First Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Zhirair Liparityan received the delegation today. The Foreign Ministry's press and public relations service reports that matters pertaining to the possibility of a cease-fire in the Karabakh conflict zone was discussed during the exchange of views.

Ambassador Mosberg met the heads of the diplomatic missions of the CSCE member countries in Yerevan at noon. The delegation left Yerevan the same day.

Vice President To Leave for Tehran 3 May

NC0205160294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1332 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 2 May (SNARK)—Tomorrow, following the invitation of the Iran Government, the Armenian delegation headed by the Vice-President of Armenia Gagik Arutyunyan leaves for Teheran.

Press service of the Armenian President told SNARK the problems connected with the Armenian delegation's visit were discussed at the meeting of Gagik Arutyunyan and Ahmad Sobkhami, Iran charge d'affaires in Yerevan.

Former Foreign Minister 'Most Popular Politician'

LD0205150994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] According to a poll, Armenia's ex-Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisyan is the most popular politician in that republic in April.

He was favoured by 73.2 percent of the 1200 Armenians, polled by the Center for Sociological Studies at the Republican Academy of Sciences.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan proved popular with only 22.9 percent of the interviewed, 57.1 percent voiced dislike for him.

Nor does the Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan enjoy popularity. He was spoken of favorably only 11.6 percent of the respondents, 73.2 percent said he was no good.

The most popular party, according to the poll, is Dashnaktsutyun, an opposition revolutionary federation. Going next is the Armenian Communist Party. The ruling Armenian National Movement comes only third in the list.

Of foreign politicians, the U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russia's President Boris Yeltsin enjoy the greatest popularity in Armenia.

Press Briefing on Constitution, Karabakh

944K1158A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Serob Oganyan under rubric "Briefing": "President Prepared To Submit Disputed Issues to the Court of the People"]

[Text] Yesterday the president's acting press secretary Levon Zurabyan held a regular briefing devoted to two topics: First, regarding the adoption of the Constitution, and second, the latest events in Nagornyy Karabakh.

The press secretary noted that the adoption of the Constitution, in the president's opinion, is one of the most

important problems Armenia will have to solve. In spite of the fact that discussions in parliament regarding the question of the mechanism for adopting the Constitution produced no results, L. Ter-Petrosyan gave a positive assessment to the discussions since the positions represented by the political forces in parliament were determined and their alignment was clarified. This will make it possible for everyone to take a more realistic approach to the question of adoption of the Constitution.

"It is obvious," said L. Zurabyan, "that today's parliament is indeed not in a position to adopt a Constitution...." The adoption of the Basic Law was opposed both by deputies insisting on a referendum and by proponents of a Constituent Assembly. Thus, the number of deputies voting against this idea was almost a qualified majority. The idea of a Constituent Assembly was also actually rejected since no more than 50-60 deputies support it.

"The debates in parliament showed that the most promising path to the adoption of a Constitution is a referendum," stated the president's press secretary. The Constituent Assembly version can only create another source of tension since the organ granted these extremely important authority would have to be chosen under conditions when there is no national accord in society.

In the press secretary's opinion, the draft Constitution developed by the Supreme Soviet commission is more legitimate than the draft of the "six." He reported that the president suggested providing equal conditions for the drafts, placing both versions on the referendum. The readiness to hold new presidential and National Council elections after the adoption of the parliamentary version of the Constitution confirmed that this draft was not created under the power of Levon Ter-Petrosyan. And the latter, the president, through his press secretary, stated that he is prepared to submit all disputed issues to a court of the people. The absence of this kind of approach among the opposition shows their mistrust of democratic methods and the lack of confidence in the notion that they can achieve their goals by setting democratic mechanisms in motion.

"In spite of everything, the president is looking to the future with optimism and thinks that the Constitution will be adopted through a nationwide referendum. As for the parliament, even if the constitutional process is slowed up here, this should not be viewed as a crisis. In such a case, in a year there will be new elections to the legislative organ and there will be new deputies to decide this issue...

Then the president's press secretary proceeded to a discussion of the situation surrounding the Karabakh problem. After the speaker of the parliament of Azerbaijan, R. Guliyev, met in Moscow with Minister of Defense of Russia P. Grachev and reported his readiness to cease combat activities beginning at 0000 hours on 28 February, the latter had a telephone conversation with President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan, during the course of which he conveyed Azerbaijan's proposal and asked that he render assistance to the Karabakh side so that the Nagornyy Karabakh Republic would also agree to the cease-fire. This request was relayed to the Karabakh leaders by Yerevan officials. The Russian side, in turn, conveyed Azerbaijan's proposal to the authorities of the Nagornyy Karabakh Republic.

"What Azerbaijan is proposing now is only a 10-day cease-fire without any commitments," said L. Zurabyan. "And, of course, in this form the proposal is unacceptable to Nagornyy Karabakh..."

The press secretary expressed the opinion that Azerbaijan needed these 10 days as a respite and to prepare to resume combat activities and this is why Armenia fully concurs with Azerbaijan's position...

Rising Water Levels Stop All Railroad Service for 1 Month

NC0205160194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1340 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 2 May (SNARK)—For about a month the railroad communications of Armenia with outer world has been broken off. Press service of the Armenian Government told SNARK that as a result of the sharp rise in water-level at the Khrami river in the Marneuliaskiy region, the central pier of 70-meter railroad bridge declined for two meters.

In connection with danger for trains a resolution to stop railway traffic was made. According to preliminary forecasts, trains from Armenia to Georgia and back will not run for about a month. Other railroad communications through Azerbaijan and Turkey have not worked for a long time because of blockade of Armenia by these countries. The representatives of the Armenia Government have left for the place of incident and are organizing the transportation of loads, first of all grain and fuel, from Georgia to Armenia with trucks.

Azerbaijan

Gasanov Sets Conditions for Karabakh Cease-Fire

NC0205173394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Here is a report from our Foreign Ministry's press service:

To ensure the irreversibility of the peace talks, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the international organizations, primarily the CSCE, should declare that they will assume the following obligations after the establishment of a cease-fire in the region.

1. The Armenian Republic's leadership should guarantee to pull out its Armed Forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani lands, including Shusha and Lachin.

2. The Azerbaijani Republic's leadership should guarantee to discuss Daghlyk-Karabakh's [Nagorno-Karabakh's] status within the Azerbaijani state structure.

3. The CSCE countries should announce that they will not allow military equipment to be sent to Daghlyk-Karabakh.

This proposal was put forward by our republic's foreign minister, Gasan Gasanov, during a meeting with Mathias Mosberg, deputy chairman of Minsk Group.

Russian Units Aid Armenian Troops in Offensive

NC0205184394 Baku TURAN in English 1734 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Baku, 2 May (TURAN)—Over the last days and this morning the Armenian armed forces continued their attacks in the northern (Geranboyskiy), north-eastern (Terterskiy) and in the eastern (Agdamskiy-Agdzhabedinskiy) sections of the front.

According to the military sources, the Armenian side bring the new armed units to the conflict zone. TURAN was informed by the origin in the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan that during the recent fighting several military units of Russian Army was observed at the battle zone. The same source announced that the Russian Forces fighting in favour of Armenians, occupy the inhabited areas and heights and then transfer them to the Armenians possession. Only 6 villages in the northern part of Agdamskiy region of Azerbaijan had been occupied by the help of Russian units during the last week. The same source says that the Russian units bring to the battle zone the latest models of the military hardware, in particular, the latest tanks as T-80.

In the experts opinion the Russian Army's participation in the side of the Armenian side is the result of refusal of Baku to adopt the Russia's plan of settlement on the Azeri-Armenian conflict. It is widely known that the plan provided for the Russian military units delivery to the conflict zone.

Karabakh Army HQ Reports Azerbaijani Attacks

LD0205122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1117 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 May—The press service of the Karabakh Army headquarters has reported that the Azerbaijani side today resumed attacks on the north and northeast of Mardakertskiy Rayon [Mardakert] of Nagorno-Karabakh, using armored equipment and artillery. Thus, Stepanakert believes, Azerbaijan is violating the cease-fire accords. According to the press service, the Karabakh sub-units are not only successfully rebuffing the enemy attacks, but also dealing it considerable blows in places.

Stepanakert pointed out that it was relatively calm on other stretches of the front.

Prisoners Exchanged With Armenia

LD0205181894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the press center of the Azeri Ministry of Defense, INTERFAX was told of a deterioration of the situation on the Agdam and Terter sectors where according to reports from Baku the Armenian forces have gone on the offensive.

In the conflict zone, exchange of prisoners continues. According to ANI agency, through the mediation of the International Red Cross seven Azeri hostages have been returned to Baku. The arrival of another plane with three hostages is expected. They will be exchanged for five Armenians captured on the territory of Azerbaijan. All the Azeri hostages are civilians who were captured about a year ago in Kelbadzhar and Agdam, ANI reports.

Nagorno-Karabakh 'Pins Certain Hopes' on CIS Assembly

LD0205151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh "pins certain hopes" on the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, which has stepped up its peace mission in an attempt to settle the Karabakh conflict. This has been declared in an interview with journalists in Stepanakert by Karen Baburyan, the acting chairman of the parliament of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

He leads a Karabakh delegation to Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek to take part in a meeting of the heads of Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments. Mediated by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the meeting has been scheduled for 3-6 May.

In Baburyan's words, the gathering in Bishkek will largely depend on the position of Azerbaijan, "whose leadership is not too willing to maintain contact with Karabakh." He noted that broader contacts "would help to lead the conflict out of the deadlock."

Taking part in the Bishkek meeting, initiated by the Kyrgyz Parliament's Chairman Meditkan Sherimkulov and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, will be the Assembly's Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, the head of Russia's Federation Council.

Despite Russian Advice, President To Join NATO Program

NC0205185394 Baku TURAN in English 1734 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Baku, 2 May (TURAN)—Azerbaijan adopted the resolution on joining the NATO's programme "Partnership in Sake of Peace."

President's Staff of the Republic reports that tomorrow [3 May] afternoon Azeri President is due to leave for Brussels on one-day visit.

The programme of the visit provides for visiting the NATO's headquarters where the document will be signed and the press conference will be conducted.

Confidential sources report that during Rasul Guliyev's recent visit to Moscow, several Russian officials advised Azerbaijan not to hurry to join the NATO's programme.

Ministry of Economy Modifies 1994 Prognosis

NC0205183294 Baku TURAN in English 1734 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Baku, 2 May (TURAN)—Azerbaijan's Ministry of Economy handed reviewed prognosis of socio-economic development for 1994 to the Ministry of Finance.

According to the Milli Majlis, the Ministry of Finance has to take into account this prognosis when finishing off the work over the budget draft.

According to prognoses, in 1994 the inflation will total 600 per cent. In the first variant of the prognoses this figure was 240 per cent.

A representative of the Ministry of Finance told TURAN that their employees don't agree to the forecasted level of inflation since it does not correspond to real economical situation. Over the first quarter of 1994 the inflation totalled 300 percent and the production reduced by 25 per cent.

The Ministry of Economy forecasted the volume of gross national product 910 billion manats and national income 677 billion manats. In the first variant these figures were 313 and 272 billion manats, relatively.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Sees New Stage in Building Armed Forces

LD0205145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has declared that last week's appointment of the Lieutenant-General Varden Nadibaidze, the former deputy commander of a group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia, to the post of republican defence minister, starts a new stage in building up the Georgian armed forces. "New professional approaches are essential. That's precisely what guided me in nominating Nadibaidze to the office," Shevardnadze remarked and described the new minister as "an experienced specialist, a good organizer, versed in army matters and weaponry."

He emphasized that "without cooperation and friendship with Russia at this stage it is impossible to man a truly national Georgian Army to guarantee the country's independence." This, in his words, is clear from the experience of the last few years.

Turning to a scandal in Georgian parliament on 28 April, when the Vice-Speaker Vakhtang Rcheulishvili splashed water out of a glass into the face of the Popular Front's leader Nodar Natadze, Shevardnadze declared that there are forces in parliament today, wishing to rekindle instability in the country. He dismissed these attempts as unnecessary and unfeasible.

In conclusion, he called Georgian citizens for unity and concord.

Report on Shevardnadze Radio Address

LD0205194394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, gave his traditional radio address to the nation on 2 May. With the details from Tbilisi is Nikolay Mamuashvili:

[Mamuashvili] In his address, Shevardnadze wished all the people of the Republic a happy Easter Sunday. Addressing the people of the Tskhinval Rayon and Abkhazia, the head of state noted that he believed in the day when everyone would be able to return to the conflict zones and that Abkhazia and Tskhinval Rayon would be able to live a peaceful and calm life.

I am profoundly convinced, Shevardnadze went on, that Christian morals will give us the right and the opportunity—together with the Abkhazians and the Ossetians—to heal our deep wounds and to live a peaceful life again.

Regarding his recent visit to western Georgia, Shevardnadze said that he was happy with the changes he had seen in the region, which provide grounds to be confident about the Georgia of tomorrow. I have seen well-kept gardens, Shevardnadze said, and people working in the fields. Practically all enterprises in industrial Kutaisi have started working again. The highway to the mountains of Svanetia has opened. Everything is being done to ensure order in Adzharia, Kakhetia, and other regions of the country.

In Shevardnadze's opinion, we are standing on the threshold of serious positive changes that will be beneficial to the Republic.

In his speech, the head of the state also touched upon the question of forming a new Georgian national army, which, as he put it, needs not just bare enthusiasm but professionalism, order, and discipline. It is precisely this, Shevardnadze went on, that guided me when I proposed General Nabaidze to the post of Georgian defense minister, who has passed through a fine school in the Russian Army. The head of state stressed, I quote: The bitter experience of the past has proved that, without close contacts with Russia, we will be unable to create a full-blooded, normal army that, as in all countries of the world, should be the guarantor of democracy, peace, and stability.

New Defense Minister Reshuffles Top Military Personnel

LD3004161194 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1310 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Varden Nadibaidze, the Georgian defense minister, has ordered new appointments among the ministry's senior personnel.

Major General Paata Datuashvili was released from the post of first deputy defense minister. The new appointment to this post is Major General Guram Nikolaishvili, who was up until now the chief of general staff.

Major General Nodar Tatarashvili, who until recently was the commander of Georgian peacekeeping forces in Samachablo [South Ossetia], was appointed as chief of general staff.

Plans To Introduce New National Currency Reported

PM0305102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Aleksey Sinelnikov report: "Yet Another Change of Money Looms in Georgia"]

[Text] Tbilisi—According to figures from the State Committee for Socioeconomic Information, the per capita cost of a basket of consumer goods as of early April had reached 25.7 million coupons, while the subsistence minimum was 17.5 million. At the same time, the minimum wage was still 50,000 coupons—slightly more than 83 rubles.

These figures relate to early April, when the Georgian unit was much higher. Since then it has fallen by another 250. There is probably nowhere that the Russian ruble is valued so much—in Tbilisi, for instance, it sells for more than 600 coupons.

Today we can already say that the Georgian monetary unit is dying. Having existed for just over a year, it has almost ceased to have any meaning. Bread, flour, municipal services, and transportation costs are fully subsidized by the state, an 800-gram loaf costs just over 1 ruble in Russian money, while a trip on the subway costs just 1 kopek. Budget expenditure is 270 percent higher than revenue, and no end to hyperinflation is yet in sight. In recent days the country's top financial and economic leaders have been talking more and more often about the need to immediately introduce a new national currency—the "lari." According to some reports, one tonne of this currency is already stored in the republic's warehouses.

Estonia

President: Summit May Break 'Deadlock' in Russian Ties

WS0205115694 Tallinn ETA in English 0810 GMT 2 May 94

[From 30 April EESTI SENUMID, HOMMIKULEHT, POSTIMEES, p 1, 4; "News Bulletin" No. 83/94]

[Excerpt] Monday, 2 May—A summit meeting might help to end the deadlock in Estonian-Russian relations, President Lennart Meri told at a meeting with a group of Russian journalists on Thursday [28 April].

Delayed negotiations have a negative feature of making the delegations concentrate on details and forcing them to forget the strategic directions, Meri said. He hoped that a meeting with the Russian president might give new life to the negotiations. The president admitted that his contacts with Boris Yeltsin have been limited to letters so far. "Obviously, the relations with the Baltic states are not a central issue of the Russian foreign policy and the negotiations have been slowed down accordingly," he said.

Meri welcomed the idea of finding an international mediator, for example, the president of Finland. He also said that the freezing of the Estonian-Russian border issue for 5-10 years could be possible in order to enable to find a correct solution to the issue. [passage omitted]

President Postpones Rome Visit, Wishes Pope Rapid Recovery

WS0205115194 Tallinn ETA in English 0909 GMT 2 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, 1 May—Estonian President Lennart Meri has decided to postpone his friendship visit to Italy and Rome earlier scheduled for 3-6 May until September, the President's press office said.

Pope John Paul II on Thursday [28 April] tripped on his robe and fractured his hip. Meri has sent the Pope a letter wishing him rapid recovery.

Foreign Minister Views Russian-Latvian Withdrawal Accord

WS0205115394 Tallinn ETA in English 0909 GMT 2 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik once again stressed his firm commitment not to make concessions to Russia in the issue of the retired military and criticized the country's attempts to apply provisions in Russian-Latvian agreement also to its draft agreement with Estonia.

"We consider unconstructive the attempts by the Russian part to apply provisions in Latvian-Russian agreements to Estonian-Russian draft agreements," Luik said on commenting Latvian-Russian agreements signed in Moscow on Saturday [30 April].

Such attempts make it impossible to make any progress at negotiations, because Estonia and Russia must find their own solutions corresponding to specific relations between the two countries, Luik said.

Luik considered positive the agreement on Russian troop pullout from Latvia while stressing the importance of troop withdrawal timetable presented by Russia.

"Russia has a unique possibility," Luik said while adding that troop pullout from Latvia and Estonia by 31 August deadline would eliminate a major issue of dispute between Russia and the Western countries opening the doors to the country's accession to the Council of Europe.

On commenting other agreements signed between the two countries, Luik said "Estonia does not accept binding troop pullout to any additional conditions."

"A protocol later added to the agreement on retired military does not give the Latvian Government the right to control issuing residence permits to the retired military," Luik said. "...Estonia is not going to give up that right," he added.

It was very important that Boris Yeltsin denounced crimes committed in Latvia by the Stalinist regime, Luik said while adding that Estonian people could appreciate a similar gesture towards Estonia.

Laar Arrives in Paris To Discuss Security, Trade

LD0305055594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0546 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Shchogolev]

[Text] Paris 3 May TASS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar arrived in Paris for a two-day official visit on Monday evening. It was learned here from diplomatic sources that he plans to discuss with French leaders the problem of European security, development of cooperation between Estonia and the European Union, the state of Russo-Estonian relations, and also the prospects for strengthening bilateral relations between Paris and Tallinn.

Estonia is showing interest in French Premier Eduard Balladur's initiative to conclude a pact on stability in Europe. It has already joined the NATO-proposed "Partnership for Peace" programme. Moreover, Estonia has concluded several commercial agreements with the European Union and is eager to sign a free trade agreement with it. Commenting on this, official representative of the French Foreign Ministry Richard Ducket said that Paris favoured an early conclusion of such an agreement.

Minister Briefs EU Envoys on Law on Foreigners

LD0205161994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's press service has reported to Estonian Radio that Foreign Minister Juri Luik had a meeting today with ambassadors of the European Union [EU], at their request. The ambassadors voiced concern over some practical aspects of the implementation of the

law on foreigners. At the same time, it was emphasized once again the the EU accepts the Estonian law on foreigners and its legal logic.

The ambassadors who attended the meeting noted that the EU's position on troop withdrawal remains the same, which means that the Russian troops must leave Estonia unconditionally by 31 August. The EU has also notified the Russian Federation of this position.

Juri Luik provided a progress report about the registration of aliens as well as about reorganization of the citizenship and immigration department.

Swedish Justice Ministry Delegation Visits

LD0205170094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] As reported to ETA by the Estonian Justice Ministry, a 12-strong delegation of the Swedish Justice Ministry is visiting Tallinn today. According to Imbi Markus, the head of the ministry's foreign relations department, the delegation consists mainly of (?clerical) staff and financial and administrative managers. According to Markus, this visit is linked to preparations for a meeting to map out an extensive cooperation project between the two ministries.

Today, a basic agreement on cooperation between Estonian and Swedish postal services was signed. This will be followed by the conclusion of a string of agreements on specific areas. There are plans to reform the Estonian system of postal codes. Cooperation will continue with the issue of postage stamps and the training of staff.

Tartu Party Official Urges Deportation of 'Unwanted Aliens'

WS0205115994 Tallinn ETA in English 0810 GMT 2 May 94

["News Bulletin" No. 82/94]

[Text] Estonian-Russian negotiations would escape from the present deadlock if Estonia approved an order of deportation of unwanted aliens, head of the National Independence Party Tartu section Andres Mae said. Russia would take Estonia more seriously if it demonstrated its willingness to maintain order, Mae said. But he admitted that the move would result in a major Russian propaganda offensive.

Latvia

Baltic Presidents To Discuss Russian Army Withdrawal

LD0205182494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, and Estonian President Lennart Meri will meet at Jurmala resort near Riga on 3 May. According to the presidential office, the meeting, held at Guntis Ulmanis' initiative, will be private.

Lennart Meri, Algirdas Brazauskas, and Guntis Ulmanis are expected to discuss confidentially problems linked to the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia and Estonia. The presidents also may adopt a joint statement on this issue. A news conference on the outcome of the meeting is not scheduled.

Prime Minister Notes Trade Status With Russia

WS0205144894 Tallinn BNS in English 1350 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpt] Riga, May 02, BNS—Latvian and Russian state delegations signed a protocol on the most favored nation status in economy, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs told reporters Sunday [1 May] on return from Moscow.

Under the protocol, the favored nation relations take effect starting 1 June. The respective agreement is scheduled for the second half of May when Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin tours Riga.

Birkavs draw a link between the achieved compromise on the amount of rent for the Skrunda radar and the agreement on the most favored nation status in economy.

As reported, Russia initially offered Latvia 2 million U.S. dollars per year while Latvia demanded 400 million U.S. dollars per year.

The 30 April troop withdrawal treaty provides for a $5-million yearly rent. Birkavs pledged to channel the funding for the needs of Skrunda locals who will have to put up with the radar for four more years.

Latvia needs long-term goodneighborly relations with Russia, said Birkavs. He claimed that Latvia and Russia faced a new historic epoch in this aspect.

"The new, democratic Russia understands Latvia's problems and the signature of the agreements will consolidate democracy also in Russia itself," noted Birkavs. [passage omitted]

Clinton Welcome of Russian Withdrawal Pact Noted

WS0205144694 Tallinn BNS in English 1350 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Riga, 2 May, BNS—U.S. President Bill Clinton on Saturday [30 April] welcomed the signing of an agreement on Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia.

The withdrawal package was signed by Presidents Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia and Boris Yeltsin of Russia in Moscow on Saturday.

Clinton in his foreign policy radio address the same day called the Latvian-Russian agreement historic, adding that "these and other promising developments were made possible, in part, by American support and resolve."

The United States had an important role in helping to overcome a deadlock during the talks on the issue of the Russian early-warning radar station at Skrunda, Latvia.

The U.S. President at his visit to Moscow in January received Russia's proposal, according to which the facility

remains under Russian control for the next four years, plus for a 1.5-year term necessary for its dismantling.

This proposal, later accepted by Latvia, was turned over in Washington to Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis during his late January-early February visit.

Election Commission Extends Deadline for Candidates

WS0205150194 Tallinn BNS in English 1350 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Riga, 2 May, BNS—The Central Electoral Committee extended the deadline for accepting lists of candidates by 9 May in a number of regions. It also decided to convene a meeting of election coordinators, Budget Minister Janis Platais and MP's to tackle the financial problems of elections.

As reported, the Central Electoral Committee requested the related institutions to increase the funding for the elections. Platais said the claim was ungrounded.

Electoral Committee member Dzintars Rasnacs stressed that the work of regional commissions may be hampered by the lack of resources and the financial shortfall may even obstruct the organization of local elections. The committee plans to inform about the situation Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs if the resources are not allotted soon.

Lithuania

Seimas Chairman Welcomes Results of Summit

LD0205145894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The head of Lithuania's parliament, Ceslovas Jursenas, has expressed approval of the results of an 30 April meeting between the presidents of Russia and Latvia, Boris Yeltsin and Guntis Ulmanis.

In an interview with INTERFAX, Jursenas described an agreement on a deadline for Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia as "the most important achievement" of the meeting.

He said the accords signed by the two presidents were "undoubtedly significant" not only for Russia and Latvia but for the entire Baltic region. Thus, they could help negotiate a deadline for Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia, he said.

Commenting on last week's reception by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas of a letter from Yeltsin, Jursenas expressed the hope that the two presidents' exchange of letters "will help eliminate moot points and problems in the relations between our two countries."

But he said he could not understand why Russia unilaterally suspended agreements that had already been reached. He said Lithuania takes the position that signed agreements must be carried out and that other problems, such as that of Russia's exclave Kaliningrad Region, must be negotiated after or simultaneously with that. "We understand the interests of Russia, but Russia must also understand and respect our interests," he said.

Brazauskas Welcomes Russian-Latvian Agreements

LD0205183394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1741 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius 2 May TASS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas praised Russian-Latvian agreements reached in Moscow.

"The negotiation process with Russia which has caused many disputes in Latvia has ended very effectively, namely with the signing of very important documents," Brazauskas said in an interview with the national radio on Monday.

He said that on Tuesday the leaders of the three Baltic states—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia—will meet in Riga, adding that "we have what to discuss."

Brazauskas recalled that during Polish President Lech Walesa's recent visit to Lithuania they signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. "I think it will be interesting for my Latvian and Estonian colleagues to hear our opinion about that document. For my part, I would like to learn about the results of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis's visit to Moscow and his talks with Russian leaders," he said.

Foreign Minister, President Discuss Yeltsin Letter

WS0205144494 Tallinn BNS in English 1350 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, 2 May, BNS—A high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official should come to Lithuania to discuss relations between the two countries, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said Monday [2 May] after his meeting with President Algirdas Brazauskas.

Gylys told reporters that he and Brazauskas spoke about the exchange of letters between Lithuanian and Russian presidents, as well as the problems discussed in them. "There are things to negotiate about," Gylys said, but noted that preparations for further talks only started.

Brazauskas last Friday received Russian President Boris Yeltsin's letter implying that the implementation of bilateral economic treaties is bound up with the problem of Russian transit to the Kaliningrad region through Lithuanian territory.

Minister Gylys emphasized that Russian transit through Lithuania is currently carried out according to Lithuanian rules. The minister said he intends to discuss the strategy of transit talks with the head of the working group for talks with the CIS, Virgilijus Bulovas.

Gylys said he and Brazauskas also discussed the results of the minister's recent visits to the United States and several Latin American countries. The minister said they analyzed proposals for political, economic, diplomatic and cultural cooperation brought from Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Parliament Chair Praises Latvian Accord, RSA Vote

WS0205145194 Tallinn BNS in English 1350 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, 2 May, BNS—Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas says he is pleased with the agreements signed between Latvia and Russia to withdraw Russian troops from Latvian territory by 31 Aug.

At a press conference in Vilnius Monday [2 May], Jursenas said he is glad that "one more Baltic state will be free of a foreign army."

The parliament chairman noted, however, that the agreements signed last Saturday in Moscow are not as good as "wanted by Latvia and us." Jursenas said his reservation primarily concerns a permission for Russia to keep its radar base in Skrunda for another several years, although "forward movement is impossible without compromises."

Jursenas criticized Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the rightist opposition in the Lithuanian parliament, for calling Latvia the weakest Baltic link that was broken by Russia. The parliament chairman said it is unethical to "criticize a sister of one fate in such a way and to call her names."

Jursenas also praised the first all-race election in the "far-away" South Africa. He said the election buried the apartheid system, which has completely discredited itself in the course of years. The South African election was observed by Lithuanian Parliament Vice Chairman Aloyzas Sakalas.

Landsbergis Warns on Concessions to Russia

LD0205160194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Seimas right-wing opposition, has warned that no concessions should be made to Russia because this would mean that Russia's method of arm-twisting has been recognized, and new pressures would follow.

This is how Vytautas Landsbergis commented on the news that Russian President Boris Yeltsin admitted in his letter to Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas that Russia linked the implementation of economic agreements signed last autumn with transit from the Karaliaucius [Kaliningrad] region.

Having received this letter, President Algirdas Brazauskas told journalists that Lithuania cannot agree to Russia's policy in this respect. According to him, the agreement signed in Vilnius last November was the result of one stage of negotiations, however, negotiations concerning the transit from the Kaliningrad region and the visa regime is a matter of further negotiations.

Vytautas Landsbergis said that he believes that President Algirdas Brazauskas is not inclined to give in, however, contracts and prices for transit fixed by lower-ranking officials remain in the realm of unanswered questions. If the income for the state budget is rejected by one's own will, then this looks like corruption, Vytautas Landsbergis said [sentence as heard]. This was a Baltic News Service report.

Envoy on Trade Agreement With Russia

LD0205161094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius 2 May TASS—"The negotiation process with Russia, which has slightly slowed down lately, continues and we hope that sooner or later we will reach an agreement with Moscow," Lithuanian Ambassador at Large Virgilius Bulovas, head of the Lithuanian delegation to the talks with CIS states, said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Bulovas said that "it was not Lithuania's fault that the agreement signed by the prime ministers of the two countries in Vilnius on 18 November 1993 on most favoured nation trading status never came into force. The agreement is of great importance for Lithuania because Russia is our major economic partner," he added.

Moscow sets forth more and more new conditions, including guarantees for the economy of the Kaliningrad region, Russia's westernmost enclave, its military and transit through Lithuania, Bulovas said.

He stressed that "we want it (transit) to be based on the republic's legislation and properly drawn documents, that's all. Lithuania will not take any steps which may damage the region's economy."

"However, if Russia continues the policy of 'delays' with regard to the enactment of the aforementioned agreement on trade, thus pushing us, intentionally or not, towards the West, Lithuania will undertake adequate measures," Bulovas said.

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Signed With French Team

WS0205145794 Tallinn BNS in English 1350 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, 2 May, BNS—A French-Lithuanian agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy was signed in Vilnius Friday by Philippe Rouvillois, director general of the French Atomic Energy Agency, and Algimantas Stasiukynas, Lithuanian energy minister.

A delegation of French nuclear energy experts, headed by Rouvillois, visited Lithuania last week to discuss safety at the Ignalina nuclear power plant.

Vytautas Bieliauskas, head of the nuclear energy division of the Lithuanian Energy Ministry, said the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development allocated 33 million ECU to upgrade safety at Ignalina. The visiting French delegation said companies in France are ready to take an active part in the Lithuanian power plant's modernization.

Preparations for Stage 2 of Privatization Reported

WS0205143994 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 19 Apr 94 No. 75 p 1

[Report by GK: "Privatization: Looking Forward to the Second Stage"]

[Text] While the first stage in privatization—when state property was distributed to citizens for investment coupons—is drawing to a close, the government has drafted two new laws on privatization. These laws project the establishment of two new institutions—the Privatization Agency that would handle the privatization of remaining state assets, and the State Property Fund that would manage the remaining state assets or their part in private enterprises. These two institutions must be separated because the office that manages state property will, certainly, not be interested in speeding up privatization and bringing nearer its own natural breakup.

At a press conference yesterday, Andrew L. Baldwin and Robert Stone, leaders of the European Union program for assisting privatization in the Baltic states, assessed the process of privatization in our country and one-year results of the PHARE [Poland and Hungary Action for Restructuring the Economy]. In their opinion, privatization in Lithuania is successful in comparison with other Baltic and East European countries. Privatization for hard currency alone could be more effective. They implied that the government had made a mistake by refusing to sell the "Lietuva" hotel for $10 million.

The government pledges to extend privatization for investment coupons which has not been completed. In reply to a question from TIESA as to whether the law on primary privatization was worth changing, R. Stone reminded everyone that 187 amendments have already been made to this law. In his opinion, however, the law must be made more rational, primarily by reducing privileges to workers at enterprises.

Seimas Introduces Proportional System for Local Elections

WS0205115294 Vilnius ELTA in Lithuanian 1151 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The Seimas [parliament] has decided that the self-government elections will be held according to the proportional system. Members of local councils will be elected for two years, while their current term in office is four years.

The election date has not yet been set. According to unofficial reports, the elections should take place this fall.

One article in the law on elections for local government councils, approved by the Seimas, states that representatives to election commissions can be nominated only by those parties and political organizations, which have received Seimas deputy mandates according to party lists.

The entire law on elections to local government councils will be adopted next week.